Florida Historic Golf Trail











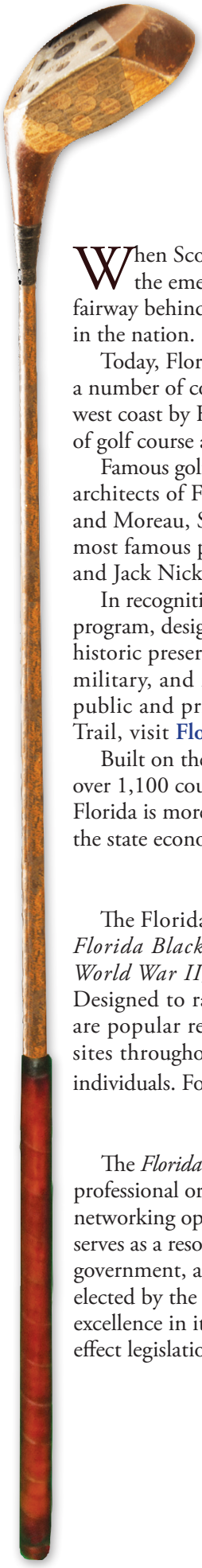


FLORIDA
HISTORIC
GOLF TRAIL



Florida Division of Historical Resources

A Florida Heritage Publication



Florida Historic Golf Trail

Come Play on History!

When Scottish immigrant John Gillespie established his homestead in Sarasota in 1886, he brought his passion for the emerging game of golf with him, and constructed a practice course consisting of two greens and one long fairway behind his home. This two-hole golf "course" became the origin of golfing in Florida and one of the first recorded in the nation.

Today, Florida's golf history is recognized as one of the earliest in the nation. Its growth dates back to the 1890s, when a number of courses were created for resorts along the railroad lines built by Henry Flagler on the east coast, and on the west coast by Henry Plant. The construction of Florida's early golf courses and resorts continued through the "golden age" of golf course architecture that lasted from the 1900s through the 1930s.

Famous golf course architects were often hired to design and build some of these new golf courses. The list of renowned architects of Florida courses includes Donald Ross, Seth Raynor, and Herbert Strong, as well as firms like Langford and Moreau, Stiles and Van Kleek, and Toomey and Flynn. In turn, these courses have attracted some of the sport's most famous players, such as the legendary Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen, Babe Zaharias, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

In recognition of our state's golfing heritage, the Florida Department of State has created the *Florida Historic Golf Trail* program, designed to enhance public awareness of Florida's historic golf courses and increase an appreciation for historic preservation and Florida history. This Florida Heritage Trail publication features the public, semi-private, military, and resort golf courses that are partners on the *Florida Historic Golf Trail*, and identifies other historic public and private golf courses across the state. For the most up to date information on the Florida Historic Golf Trail, visit **FloridaHistoricGolfTrail.com**.

Built on the foundation of this long and proud history, today Florida welcomes golfers from around the world with over 1,100 courses, more than 500 golf communities, and numerous championship events. In the 21st century, golf in Florida is more than just an enjoyable pastime—it is a key industry contributing to the vitality of local communities and the state economy. We invite you to *"Come Play on History!"*

FLORIDA HERITAGE TRAIL SERIES

The Florida Department of State's Florida Heritage Trail series began in 1991 with the publication of the *Florida Black Heritage Trail*. Since then, additional titles in the series include the *Cuban, Women's, Jewish, World War II, Native American, Spanish Colonial, British, French, Civil War,* and *Seminole Wars Heritage Trails.* Designed to raise awareness of the state's cultural and historical resources, these educational and travel publications are popular resources for residents, students, historians and visitors to the state. Each volume identifies historic sites throughout Florida that are related to the title topic, and offers profiles and biographical sketches of significant individuals. For more information, visit **dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/heritage-trails**.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

The *Florida Golf Heritage Trail* was produced by the Florida Association of Museums (FAM), the statewide not-for-profit professional organization for Florida's museums and museum professionals. FAM provides continuing education and networking opportunities for museum professionals, improves the level of professionalism within the museum community, serves as a resource for information on the more than 340 museums in the state, serves as a liaison between museums and government, and enhances the ability of museums to serve the public interest. FAM is guided by a Board of Directors elected by the membership, which is representative of the spectrum of museum disciplines across Florida. FAM encourages excellence in its members by promoting communication through which its members share information and resources, effect legislation, and promote support of museums. For further information, contact:

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Golf Comes to Florida

Colonel J. Hamilton Gillespie

Early golf enthusiasts in Sarasota insist that the first golf ball ever put into play in the United States was on a small practice course on Sarasota's Main Street in 1886. Colonel John Hamilton Gillespie, Sarasota's number one citizen for over three decades, designed and built the course in a small, natural clearing close to where Sarasota's Central School now stands.

Born in 1852 in Edinburgh, Scotland, John Hamilton Gillespie moved to Sarasota in 1886 to oversee his father's investment business. The Florida Mortgage and Investment Company acquired land for British and European émigrés who were drawn by alluring descriptions of economic opportunity. A colony of the company's Scottish investors was struggling to survive in the Sarasota wilderness of the 1880s, so Gillespie's father sent him to salvage the effort.



Canvas and leather golf bag with clubs, ca. 1915-1930.
(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)

Gillespie brought his golf clubs from Scotland, and built a tee in his back yard between his home on Palm Avenue and what is now the U.S. Post Office on Ringling Boulevard. He would tee off, and his caddy would return the ball to him. In May of 1886 Gillespie cleared land for a two-hole golf course behind his house. The creation of Gillespie's course, which consisted of two greens and a fairway, is the foundation of Sarasota's claim as home to the first golf course in the United States. He was indisputably one of America's golf pioneers.



John Hamilton Gillespie.
(Image courtesy of the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources)

Golf wasn't just a hobby for Gillespie; it was his passion. A May 1886 diary entry by Sarasota colonist Alex Browning, notes, "I used to stop on my way to work and watch Colonel Gillespie play golf. One day he asked me if I ever played golf, and when I said 'No,' he replied, 'Mon, y're missin' half ye life.'"

Gillespie's downtown practice course soon grew to four holes, and after the arrival in 1900 of Leonard Reid, his manservant and friend, the two men built one of Florida's earliest nine-hole courses. In a 1952 newspaper interview, Reid recalled the day in 1901 that Gillespie proposed building the course, "We walked for miles through the palmettos, with Colonel Gillespie sketching the golf holes on a map. A few weeks later, about 50 men grubbed out the palmettos for the fairways," he said.

Golf Comes to Florida



Golfing in Sarasota, ca. 1905.
(Image courtesy of the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources)

Gillespie designed his course for a 110-acre tract of land. The course and clubhouse were completed in 1905. Gillespie maintained the nine-hole golf course at his own expense for five years, but sold it in 1910.

In Edinburgh, Gillespie had lived as an upper class gentleman, a lifestyle he maintained in frontier Sarasota. He imported his whiskey from Scotland. He had an extensive library, which became the nucleus of the Sarasota Library, and he was active in organizing the Sarasota Yacht and Gun Club.

He wrote for *New York Golf* and *The Golfer's Magazine* under the pen name of "The Colonel," the title which he was known by in Sarasota. In Scotland, he was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, and in later years went every summer to play on the links that he had known as a young man.

John Hamilton Gillespie died at his Sarasota home, "Golf Hall," on September 7, 1923. He collapsed from a heart attack while on the links in front of his house. A day of mourning was declared, and Gillespie was buried in the cemetery he had given to the town. In 1977, the John H. Gillespie Executive Course at the Bobby Jones Golf Complex was completed in his honor.



Gillespie Golf Course and Clubhouse, Sarasota.
(Image courtesy of the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources)

"Golf is conducive to self-analysis. A man comes to know his own weakness, physically and to labor long and patiently to overcome it. That in itself tends to strengthen his whole character."

– John Hamilton Gillespie, 1922

Consolidated brand mesh pattern golf ball and hourglass-shaped red wooden golf tee, ca. 1925-1935.
(Images courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)

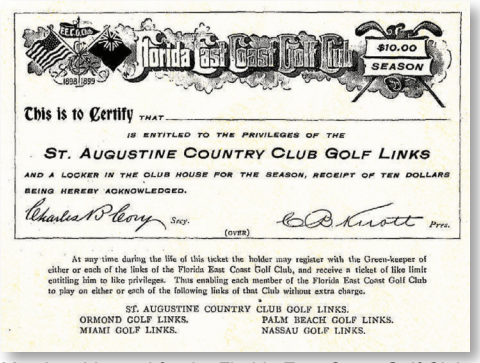


Golf Comes to Florida

The Two Henrys – Railroads Carry Golf Across Florida

John Hamilton Gillespie sold Henry Bradley Plant on the notion of promoting golf as a tourist attraction when Plant was building his Florida west coast railroad and hotel empire from Belleair, Florida to Cuba in the 1880s and 1890s. Plant hired Gillespie to design and build golf courses for his investment company in Winter Haven, Kissimmee, Tampa, Belleair, and Havana, Cuba.

At the same time, Henry Morrison Flagler, the founder of Florida's East Coast Railway, was extending his railroad and hotel empire along Florida's Atlantic coast from St. Augustine to Miami and over to Nassau, Bahamas. Recognizing the value of building golf courses with his resorts, Flagler created the Florida East Coast Golf Club in 1898. The Club combined Flagler's golf links at St. Augustine, Ormond, Palm Beach, Miami, and Nassau, so that membership in one course provided membership in all the courses.



Membership card for the Florida East Coast Golf Club, *Golf* magazine, December 1898.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

Today, Florida's oldest existing golf courses are from the Plant and Flagler era. Both the West Course of the Belleair Country Club in Belleair, on the Gulf of Mexico, and the Ocean Course at The Breakers in Palm Beach on

Florida Historic Golf Trail

Timeline

1400s Golf is being played on the Links in St. Andrews, Scotland.

1744 Known as the *Thirteen Articles,* the first known written Rules of Golf were compiled by the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith in Edinburgh, Scotland.

1786 The South Carolina Golf Club was formed by Scottish émigrés and regularly met in a park known as Harleston Green in Charleston, South Carolina.

1845 On March 3, Florida became the twenty-seventh state in the United States.

1886 John Hamilton Gillespie lays out a two-hole golf course in Sarasota.

1894 The United States Golf Association (USGA) is formed.

1895 The St. Augustine Golf Club officially opens its golf course with three holes located on the grounds of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument then known as Fort Marion.

1897 Florida's first two resort courses open, the West Course at the Belleair Country Club and the Ocean Course at the Breakers in Palm Beach.

1901 *Harper's Official Golf Guide* lists 13 golf courses in Florida, at Belleair, DeLand, Jacksonville, Kissimmee, Magnolia Springs, Ocala, Orlando, Ormond, Palm Beach, St. Augustine (2), Tampa Bay, and Winter Park.

1915 The newly formed Florida State Golf Association conducts the First Annual Florida Amateur golf championship at the Tampa Automobile & Golf Club, now known as Rocky Point Golf Course in Tampa.

1917 On April 2, the *Miami Herald* publishes a list identifying 50 golf courses in Florida. That same month, the United States enters World War I, declaring war against Germany.

1919 On June 28, World War I officially ends with the Treaty of Versailles.

1925 Miss Bessie Fenn is selected as head golf professional at the Palm Beach Golf Club, now known as The Breakers Ocean Course.

1925 A group of African American professional golfers organize the United Golf Association which hosts a series of professional golf tournaments for blacks during the era of racial segregation.

1926 Walter Hagen defeats Bobby Jones 12 and 11 in a privately sponsored 72-hole match in Florida in what becomes known as the "Match of the Century."

1927 The first Florida Women's State Golf Association Championship is played on the Mount Plymouth Country Club golf course near Orlando in March.

Golf Comes to Florida

the Atlantic, can trace their first golf holes back to 1897.

In 1897, the West Course at Belleair began with six holes on elevated greens surfaced with crushed seashells. It was extended to nine holes two years later. In 1909, the West Course grew to eighteen holes and was redesigned again in 1915 by golf course architect Donald J. Ross, who was then commissioned to build an additional 18-hole course for Belleair.

The Ocean Course at The Breakers also began as a six-hole course in 1897. The holes had names like Easy Street, Punch Bowl, and Waterloo. By 1901 it had expanded to 18 holes. And like Belleair, Donald Ross was hired to redesign the course in 1938.


Golf in Florida

The Famous Gulf Coast Hotels
Owned and Operated by the

Plant System

... All open Jan. 18, 1899 ...

TAMPA BAY HOTEL, Tampa, Fla.
Opens December 5th, 1898.
A. E Dick, Manager.

HOTEL BELLEVIEW, Belleair, Fla.
W. A. Barron, Manager.

THE SEMINOLE, Winter Park, Fla.
O L. Frisbee, Manager.

HOTEL FORT MYERS, Fort Myers, Fla.
F. H. Abbott, Manager.

HOTEL KISSIMMEE, Kissimmee, Fla.

... Open all the year ...

OCALA HOUSE, Ocala, Fla.
Phil F. Brown, Manager.

THE INN, Port Tampa, Fla.
S. M. Hannah, Superintendent.

Golf Links at Tampa and Kissimmee

Send for illustrated Literature

B. W. WRENN, Passenger Traffic Manager
SAVANNAH, GA.

Advertisement for the Plant System golf courses on the Florida west coast, *Golf* magazine, December 1898.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

The success of Flagler and Plant's design of pairing their resorts with golf courses did not go unnoticed by future Florida developers. Some of Florida's best and most successful developers, George Merrick in Coral Gables, Carl Fisher of Miami Beach, and D.P. Davis of Tampa and St. Augustine, saw the value that golf brought to their properties and the popularity of the game with their clients and guests. Many of their courses can be played on Florida's Historic Golf Trail.

1929	The Seminole Golf Club, one of Donald Ross's greatest golf course designs, opens in Juno Beach.
1930	Bobby Jones wins the Grand Slam (all four major golf tournaments in a calendar year).
1932	Gene Sarazen wins the U.S. and British Opens using the newly designed sand wedge he created in New Port Richey.
1938	On January 1, the USGA limits the number of golf clubs a player may carry during a game to 14.
1938	Babe Zaharias becomes the first woman to enter a men's Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) tournament, the Los Angeles Open.
1941	On December 8, the United States declares war on Japan and enters World War II.
1945	On September 2, World War II ends with the official Japanese surrender ceremony aboard the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.
1949	The Bayfront Mini Golf Course opens in downtown St. Augustine.
1950	The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) is founded.
1950	Babe Zaharias and her husband George move to Tampa and purchase the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club.
1952	The USGA and its European counterpart establish a joint set of rules which finally removed the "stymie."
1956	The PGA of America moves its national headquarters from Chicago to Dunedin, Florida.
1961	The PGA of America removes its Caucasians-only clause, opening the door for all players to participate in professional golf tournaments.
1961	Charlie Sifford becomes the first African American player to earn a PGA Tour card.
1979	The Professional Golf Association Tour (PGA TOUR) relocates its headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.
1986	African American player Adrian Stills of Pensacola turns professional, and goes on to win 30 mini-tour events before earning his card at the PGA Tour Qualifying School.
1989	The LPGA relocates its national headquarters from Houston, Texas to Daytona Beach, Florida.
1995	On January 17, the Golf Channel is launched in Orlando, Florida from the first fully digital production facility in the United States.
1996	The PGA opens its golf resort destination, The PGA Village, in Port St. Lucie, Florida.
1998	On May 19, the World Golf Hall of Fame opens in its new location in St. Augustine, Florida.
2004	Charlie Sifford becomes the first black player inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine.
2014	On September 17, the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources launches the *Florida Historic Golf Trail* at the Winter Park Country Club in conjunction with the club's centennial anniversary.



A.C. Read Golf Course at NAS Pensacola, showing a section of the course winding through live oak trees surrounded by Bayou Grande.
(Image courtesy of Billy Enfinger, A.C. Read Golf Course)

Escambia County

Pensacola

A.C. Read Golf Course

Bldg. 3495 NAS Pensacola
850.452.2454
navymwrpensacola.com

The A.C. Read Golf Course complex is located within the gates of the Naval Air Station Pensacola in Escambia County. Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola is known as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" and occupies over 5,000 acres in Northwest Florida. In 1942, NAS Pensacola constructed an 18-hole golf course to provide recreational activity for the sailors stationed there. The golf course is named in honor of Albert Cushing Read, an avid golfer and graduate of the first aviator class at Naval Air Station Pensacola in 1915. Over the years, the golf course has been expanded and renovated by golf course architects William W. Amick and Jerry Pate. The original 18-hole golf course has been incorporated into portions of the entire golf complex.

The A.C. Read Golf Course is a 27-hole golf complex consisting of three 9-hole courses that are played in 18-hole combinations (Bayou, Bayview, and Lakeview). Each 9-hole course features three sets of tees playing from 2,600 to 3,200 yards and the 18-hole combinations play from 5,400 to 6,600 yards. The Bayou course is routed among two salt water bayous and is the most scenic of the three nines. The Bayview course offers views of Bayou Grande and Pensacola Bay and is the newest of the 27 championship holes. The Lakeview course is characterized by the Live Oak lined fairways and includes seven of the original 18-holes.


U. S. Naval Air Station
Golf Course
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Each player must register with starter at first tee before starting play. No players may start on the 10th tee without permission of the starter.

Each player is required to have his own set of clubs.

Players are requested to allow faster playing matches to play through if there is an open hole ahead or when looking for lost balls.

NOTE: Violation of the above rules may result in restriction of golf privileges.

Vintage score card from A.C. Read Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

The A.C. Read Golf Course also includes an 18-hole, par-60 executive golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 4,000 to 4,300 yards. The executive course was built on top of a portion of the original holes and incorporates several of the original fairways.

In 2001, archaeologists uncovered a prehistoric village and mound complex underneath the golf course. Native American artifacts and human remains were discovered indicating that human occupation at this site goes back thousands of years.

Osceola Municipal Golf Course

300 Tonawanda Drive
850.453.7599
osceolagolf.com



Bill Mehlhorn, ca.1920s.
(Image courtesy of the Osceola Municipal Golf Course)

The Osceola Municipal Golf Course is located in the City of Pensacola in Escambia County. Interest in developing a municipal golf course in Pensacola began in 1924. A year later Pensacola voters approved a special $100,000 bond for construction of the course. A.G. Siegfried, a landscape architect from Chicago, was hired to oversee construction, and in 1926, nine holes were officially opened. After winning the 1930 La Gorce Open golf tournament in Miami, "Wild" Bill Mehlhorn arrived in Pensacola to assume duties as the head golf professional at Osceola Golf Course. One of his first tasks was to direct the building of a second nine holes. In 2011, the Osceola Municipal Golf Course underwent a complete renovation, which included new greens and a state of the art practice facility.

The 18-hole, par-72 Osceola Municipal Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,900 to 6,400 yards. Operated by the City of Pensacola, Osceola prides itself on being very affordable, and is the area's leader in promoting junior golf and the First Tee program of Northwest Florida.

Osceola's Head Golf Professional Adrian Stills graduated from Pensacola Catholic High School in 1975 and went to college with a golf scholarship to South Carolina State University, earning All-American honors. Stills turned

professional and won 30 mini-tour events before he earned his card at the PGA Tour Qualifying School in 1985. Stills was the last African American to reach the PGA Tour via qualifying school until 25 years later, when Joseph Bramlett qualified in 2010. Stills' tireless dedication to promoting the growth of the game of golf is unmatched in this area and he is considered the dean of golf professionals in the Big Bend area of northwest Florida.



Osceola Municipal Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Osceola Municipal Golf Course)

Jackson County

Marianna

Florida Caverns Golf Course

3345 Caverns Road
850.482.4257
floridastateparks.org/park/Florida-Caverns

The Florida Caverns Golf Course is located on the grounds of the Florida Caverns State Park near the City of Marianna in Jackson County. In February 1938, State Forester and Park Executive Harry Lee Baker brought in golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. who, upon inspection, indicated he was pleased with the location in the state park.

In August of 1938, $50,000 was approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for the construction of an 18-hole golf course on property adjoining the newly constructed Florida Caverns State Park. The state provided an additional $48,700 to bring the project to Marianna, at no cost to the city's citizens. When work began on the golf course later that year, news reports credit Arthur Ham with the design. Ham reportedly worked for the legendary golf course architect Donald Ross. Nearly 100 Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers were hired for ten months to complete the Florida Caverns Golf Course. Nine holes were opened by March of 1939, and the entire course opened by July of that year. By the late 1940s, nine holes were abandoned for unknown reasons.

The 9-hole, par-36 Florida Caverns Golf Course features five sets of tees playing from 4,800 to 6,400 yards, set in beautiful rolling terrain. Over the years, park rangers and locals have reported discovering what appear to be "tee boxes" in the nearby woods. These are the remnants of the abandoned holes from the original 18-hole golf course.



Golfers play on the Florida Caverns Golf Course, 1947.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/56314)

Hickory Golf Clubs - What's in a Name?

Before there was a 3-wood, a 5-iron and a pitching wedge, there was a Spoon, a Mashie and a Niblick. Prior to the 1930s most golf clubs had names, not numbers, and their shafts were made of hickory wood. They were heavier than today's modern clubs but the hickory shafts were much more flexible. Today's players are allowed only 14 clubs in their bags. Before 1938, there was no limit as to how many golf clubs a player could carry.

Since there was no established standard among hickory club makers, the names and numbers could vary, based on the different degrees of lofts found on both the hickory and modern clubs. However, this list provides a close comparison:

Play Club = Driver
Brassie = 2-wood
Spoon = 3-wood
Baffy = 4/5 wood
Cleek = 1-iron
Driving Iron = 2-iron
Long Iron = 3-iron
Mid Iron = 4-iron
Mashie = 5-iron
Spade Mashie = 6-iron
Deep Face Mashie = 7-iron
Mashie Niblick = 8-iron
Niblick = Pitching Wedge
Putter = Putter



Hickory Golf Clubs, ca. 1925-1935.
(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)



Capital City Country Club.
(Image courtesy of Capital City Country Club)

Leon County
Tallahassee

Capital City Country Club

1601 Golf Terrace Drive
850.222.0419
capitalcitycc.com

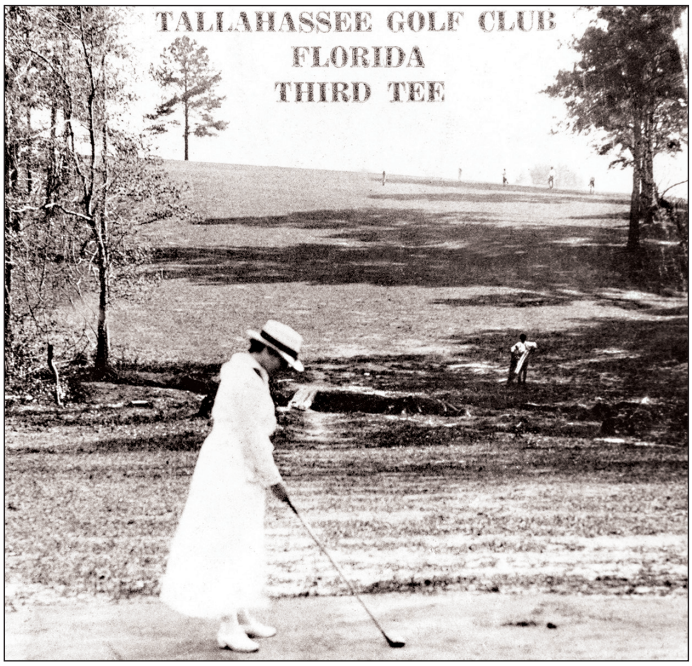
The Capital City Country Club is located in the City of Tallahassee in Leon County. In 1913, George B. Perkins organized the Florida Hills Golf Club, on land he owned in the southeast portion of Tallahassee. Perkins secured the services of Herbert H. Barker, a professional golf expert to lay out new golf links. A 9-hole golf course was completed in 1914 and received much local, state and national acclaim. In 1924, the Tallahassee Country Club was incorporated, and purchased the golf course property from George Perkins. The Tallahassee Country Club remained a 9-hole golf course for nearly two decades.

In 1935, the Tallahassee Country Club gave the property to the City of Tallahassee, with the provision that course ownership would revert back to the original members of the Tallahassee Country Club, should the City become unable to maintain it. That same year, the City of Tallahassee applied for and received a federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant for the expansion of the golf course to 18 holes. Albert W. Tillinghast, one of America's most renowned golf course architects, stopped in Tallahassee later that year to inspect the golf course as part of his work as a consulting golf course architect for the Professional Golfers Association of America (PGA). Tillinghast reviewed and commented on plans for both the new nine holes and the existing nine holes. Construction began in early 1936 and was completed within a few years.

In 1956, the City leased the golf course and most of the property back to the Tallahassee Country Club for 99 years. That same year the Club assigned its lease to the newly chartered Capital City Country Club.

The Capital City Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,200 to 6,500 yards. The golf course at Capital City Country Club is special and unique to the State of Florida, with rolling hills and elevation changes more commonly found in the northeastern United States. Covered in tall pines and large moss-draped oaks, the course occupies one of the most beautiful and natural settings in the South today, and is an outstanding venue for golfers.

After playing and winning the 1922 Southern Open in New Orleans, Gene Sarazen hopped on a train to Jacksonville to compete in the Florida Open held at the old Florida Country Club in Ortega. Along the way, on March 7 (a Tuesday), he stopped in Tallahassee. Sarazen was superstitious about Tuesdays, a trait he supposedly inherited from his father. In a 1933 *American Golfer* article by O.B. Keeler, Mr. Sarazen recounted the story, "I was on the train going over to Jacksonville and all of a sudden I thought, now, I'm getting there on Tuesday. So, I got off the train in Tallahassee and played a round there [at Capital City Country Club] and got to Jacksonville and Ortega on Wednesday." Sarazen finished third in the Ortega tournament which was won by George Kerrigan.



Golfer at the third tee of the Tallahassee Golf Club,1920s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/27629)

Okaloosa County
Niceville

Eglin Golf Course

1527 Fairway Drive
850.882.2949
eglingolf.com

The Eglin Golf Course's Eagle Course is located in the City of Niceville in Okaloosa County. Although the golf course is located within the city limits of Niceville, it was originally associated with the town of Valparaiso. In 1922, Chicago businessman James E. Plew (founder of the Chicago Towel Company) came to Valparaiso and became one of Northwest Florida's pioneer developers. He founded the Bank of Valparaiso and constructed the Valparaiso Inn. At the same time, he organized the Chicago Country Club of Valparaiso, which constructed the golf course. Memberships were marketed to Chicago businessmen, doctors and lawyers who came to the area. The golf course operated as a 9-hole course until 1927 when the firm of William Langford and Theodore Moreau was hired to design an 18-hole course. In November of that same year, 200 golfers left Chicago aboard a special deluxe train to attend the formal opening of the golf course. Noted golf writer John Healy wrote, "Facing a landlocked bay down in the Gulf Coast country, on the Vale of Paradise, where the sun shines and shines, where the breezes are balmy and gentile, lies as 'sporty' an 18 hole course as may be found south of the Mason-Dixon line." Like the fate of many private golf clubs of the late 1920s, the country club went bankrupt in 1929, and the name was changed to the Valparaiso Country Club.

Famous Golf Architects: Langford and Moreau



William Langford (left) and Theodore Moreau (right) with professional golfer Alex Smith at the Biltmore Hotel golf course, Coral Gables, 1925.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/37241)

In the early 20th century, during what is known as the "Golden Age" of golf, the partnership of William B. Langford and Theodore Moreau designed and built over 200 golf courses across the country, including Florida.

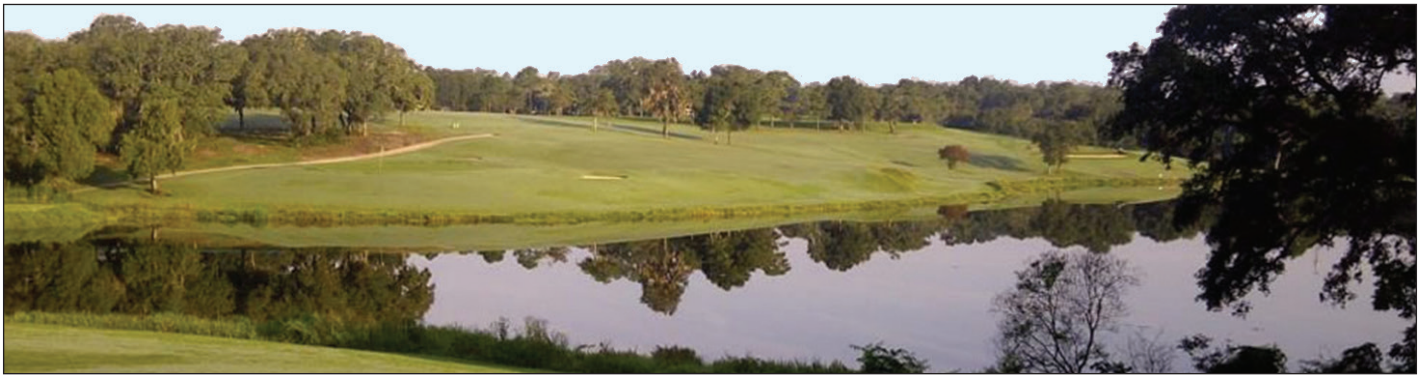
Langford and Moreau were civil engineers, but Langford had a special interest in golf, having played on the Yale University golf team which won three national championships. In 1918, they established their design and construction firm in Chicago, with Langford handling the design of the golf courses and Moreau in charge of construction. Their golf courses are often described as strategic with bold routings, full of variety and fun to play.

The most well-known examples of their work include Lawsonia Links in Green Lake, Wisconsin; Skokie Country Club in Illinois; and Wakonda in Des Moines, Iowa. Although their firm's headquarters were in Chicago, in 1921, they opened a winter office in Lake Worth, Florida. In Florida, Langford and Moreau originally designed and redesigned: the Granada Golf Course, Coral Gables; Eglin (Eagle) Golf Course, Niceville; Key West Golf Club, Key West; Lake Worth Golf Club, Lake Worth; Martin County Golf Course, Stuart; and the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club, Miami Springs. All six of these golf courses are partner courses on the Florida Historic Golf Trail.

"Hazards should be placed so that any player can avoid them if he gauges his ability correctly, so that these obstacles will make every man's game more interesting, no matter what class player he is."
– William Langford, 1919



Advertisement for golf course designers Langford and Moreau, *Golf Illustrated*, July 1921.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)



Eglin Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Eglin Golf Course)

The Valparaiso Inn and the Valparaiso Country Club operated as a resort throughout the 1930s, advertising in the 1939 *Okaloosa News Journal* as having "Beautiful Grass, Greens and Tees, 6,350 yards, 5 water Holes, with fees of $1.00 per day." Shortly after, the course was reduced back to nine holes and left to nature's devices for nearly a decade.

In 1934, Plew offered the U.S. government a donation of 1,460 contiguous acres for a bombing and gunnery range that became known as the Valparaiso Bombing and Gunnery Range. In 1937, the base was re-designated Eglin Field in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick I. Eglin, U.S. Air Corps, killed on January 1, 1937, in an aircraft accident. In 1949, the Plew family sold the course to the government and the course was renovated and re-established as an 18-hole course. The Eagle Golf Course (named after the F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft) is one of two 18-hole courses at the Eglin Golf Course Complex.

The 18-hole, par-72 Eagle Course at Eglin Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,800 yards. The Eagle Course has two unique holes, numbers 6 and 7, which both require a blind tee shot over a hill. After playing the second shot, golfers must ring a bell to alert the players behind them that it's safe to tee off. On number 6 players ring the bell once and on 7 they ring it twice. No. 7 used to have another very unique feature for a Florida golf course - a rope tow. To help golfers "climb up" the steep approach to the 7th green, a powered rope tow (similar to ones seen on a ski slope) was installed. It also helped golfers who carried their clubs or used a pull cart. It was removed several years ago but the crumbling asphalt path is still evident.

A New Spin on an Old Tradition



The Golf Bike.
(Image courtesy of the Higher Ground Golf Company, Tallahassee, Florida)

Riding a bicycle on a golf course is not a new idea. In 1920, one of the world's richest men, John D. Rockefeller, would ride a bike while playing golf in Florida. Rockefeller, who wintered on Florida's Atlantic Coast in Ormond Beach, had a passion for golf and believed that the game was good for his health.

Adapting this tradition for the 21st century, a Tallahassee, Florida company has produced the Golf Bike, which was presented in the Inventor's Spotlight at the 2013 PGA show in Orlando. In March of 2014, the first Golf Bikes were delivered to The Vinoy Renaissance Golf Resort in St. Petersburg, and are now offered as an alternative to walking or riding a cart at many courses throughout the state, including several on the Florida Historic Golf Trail. Sometimes, everything old is new again.



John D. Rockefeller with bicycle, 1913.
(Image courtesy of the Library of Congress)



Golfers at the DeFuniak Springs Country Club, 1920s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/PR02393)

Walton County
DeFuniak Springs

DeFuniak Springs Country Club
171 Country Club Lane
850.892.3812
defuniakspringsgolf.com

The DeFuniak Springs Country Club is located in the City of DeFuniak Springs in Walton County. In the early 1920s, a group of progressive businessmen recognized that golf links would draw winter tourists to their community, and sought to organize a Golf and Country Club for the benefit of tourists as well as locals. By 1924, a 9-hole golf course was under construction and opened with sand greens. The golf course remained a 9-hole layout until the late 1960s when land was cleared for an additional 9 holes. The 18-hole course was completed in the 1970s.

The DeFuniak Springs Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring five sets of tees playing from 4,100 to 6,600 yards. Carved from gently rolling hills and pine forests, the course includes five spring-fed lakes, 23 sand-traps and natural hazards, including towering trees, sandy scrub brush, hardpan and a variety of flowering shrubs. Tree lined, tight fairways lead to small Bermuda grass greens that are not only elevated but pitched and undulating enough to make the very best of putters a bit nervous. DeFuniak Springs Country Club, located in a turn-of-the-century, picture-postcard town is an affordable, hidden gem of a course with beautiful views from every vantage point.

The original 9-hole layout is still in use as the current front nine. In 1928, the course length was 3,140 yards which is only a short pitch from today's yardage, which plays at 3,183 yards from the white tees.

"Next to sunshine, golf has done more than any one thing in the development of Florida."

– Albert R. Gates,
Fort Walton News, December 20, 1939



DeFuniak Springs Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the DeFuniak Springs Country Club)

Other Historic Golf Courses in this Region



Champion Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Champion Golf Course)



Panama Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Panama Country Club)

Bay County

Lynn Haven

Panama Country Club (private)
100 Country Club Drive
850.265.3055
panamacountryclub.com

Escambia County

Cantonment

Champion Golf Course (public)
109 Mintz Lane
850.968.9325
championgolfclubfl.com

Pensacola

Pensacola Country Club (private)
1500 Bayshore Drive
850.455.7364
pensacolacountryclub.com

The Story of "Stymie"

The inside of the Florida Historic Golf Trail scorecard (below) features the phrase, "THIS CARD MEASURES SIX INCHES WHEN OPENED (STYMIE MEASURE)." This statement is derived from the time when many older scorecards displayed a 6-inch line to measure whether a proper "stymie" had been laid.

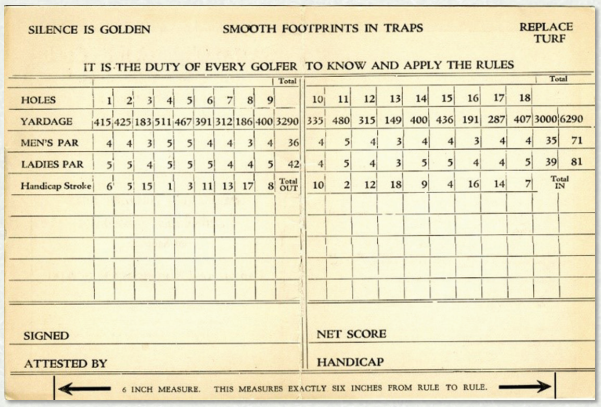
A stymie was a situation where one player's ball blocked another's path to the hole. If the balls were within six inches of each other, the closer ball could be picked up until the other player played. However, if the balls were more than six inches apart, then the player whose path was blocked (stymied) had to putt around or chip over the other ball.

The stymie is mentioned in the first written rules of golf, commonly known as the "13 Rules of Golf," written in 1744. The rules state that the only time a player could lift their golf ball from the time it was teed off and holed out was if it was touching another player's ball. In 1775, the rule was amended so that a ball could be lifted if it was touching or within 6 inches of another and a player was to lift the first ball until the other is played. In 1952, the United States Golf Association and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club established a joint set of rules, which finally removed the stymie.



THIS CARD MEASURES SIX INCHES WHEN OPENED (STYMIE MEASURE).

Inside of Florida Historic Golf Trail scorecard.
(Image courtesy of Scott Edwards, Florida Division of Historical Resources)



SILENCE IS GOLDEN — SMOOTH FOOTPRINTS IN TRAPS — REPLACE TURF

IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY GOLFER TO KNOW AND APPLY THE RULES

HOLES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
YARDAGE	415	425	183	511	467	391	312	186	400	3290	335	480	315	149	400	436	191	287	407	3000 6290
MEN'S PAR	4	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	36	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	35 71
LADIES PAR	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	42	4	5	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	39 81
Handicap Stroke	6	5	15	1	3	11	13	17	8	Total OUT	10	2	12	18	9	4	16	14	7	Total IN

SIGNED — NET SCORE

ATTESTED BY — HANDICAP

6 INCH MEASURE. THIS MEASURES EXACTLY SIX INCHES FROM RULE TO RULE.

Sarasota Golf Club "The Bobby Jones Course" scorecard with stymie measure at the bottom, 1930.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

Some golfers used the stymie at a strategic point in a match to keep their opponents from winning a hole. Bobby Jones "laid a stymie" on Cyril Tolley in the fourth round of the 1930 British Amateur Championship played at St. Andrews. Jones went on to win the match and the tournament, on the first leg of his Grand Slam year in which he also won the British Open, the United States Open and the United States Amateur Championship.



Ocala Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Ocala Golf Club)

Marion County
Ocala

Ocala Golf Club

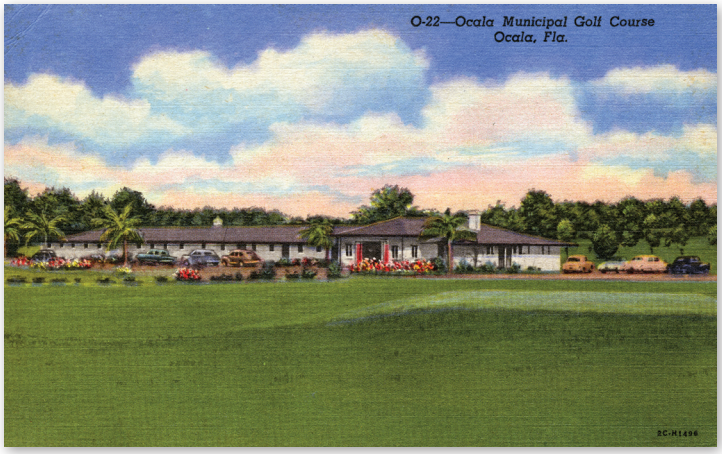
3130 N.E. Silver Springs Boulevard
352.401.6917
ocalagolfclub.com

The Ocala Golf Club is located in the City of Ocala in Marion County. The City of Ocala has a long history and strong ties with the development of golf in Florida, dating back to the early 20th century. Ocala had a 9-hole golf course in the early 1900s known as the Ocala Heights Golf Club.

The early popularity of golf in Ocala generated citizen support for the development of a second golf course on the east side of town. Construction began in 1930 for a course designed and built under the personal supervision of E. Ellsworth Giles, golf architect from Pittsburgh. Giles promoted himself not only as an architect but as a builder of golf courses and an authority in selecting land for golf links. The Ocala Highlands Golf Course and Hotel formally opened in 1931. The City of Ocala purchased the golf course in the mid-1940s and built a new clubhouse.

In 2009, the municipal golf course re-opened for play following an extensive renovation by golf course architect Michael Beebe. The renovation consisted of new greens, tees, bunkers, irrigation, cart paths and selective tree removal. According to Beebe, "our goal was to re-capture the classical look and strategic principles that had been lost over the years while utilizing improved technologies in turf grass, green construction, drainage and irrigation." The club also re-introduced short grass around the greens to add interest to the short game.

The Ocala Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring five sets of tees playing from 4,200 to 6,500 yards. The Emerald Dwarf Bermuda Greens provide a tight putting surface with very little grain. Short grass collection areas and white sand bunkers allow for a variety of shot options around the greens. There is no doubt that strategy is a key component of the game at Ocala Golf Club. The expansive clubhouse includes a fully-stocked Golf Shop, grill room dining and banquet area, making Ocala a natural setting for corporate outings, meetings and other social events.



Ocala Municipal Golf Course, hand-colored postcard 1952.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/268254)

The Florida State Golf Association's (FSGA) Florida State Amateur Championship tournament trophy is named after Ocala's own, Clarence Camp. Camp was a founding member and the first president of the FSGA in 1913.



Palatka Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Palatka Golf Club)

Putnam County
Palatka

Palatka Golf Club
1715 Moseley Avenue
386.329.0141
palatkagolfclub.com

Palatka Golf Club is located in the City of Palatka in Putnam County. In the early 1920s, the women of Palatka petitioned their city commission for a public improvements bond in which the city would include an 18-hole golf course. Early in 1925 the city commission sped up negotiations for the purchase of property on which the municipal golf course would be laid out and constructed. By the end of that year, construction had begun and the golf course was taking shape. Newspaper articles at the time credited W.D. Clark with the original design of the golf course which opened in 1926. A ticket to play for one year cost $50.

Since 1958, every March the Palatka Golf Club has hosted the Florida Azalea Amateur, one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in Florida. The golf course was redesigned by Bobby Weed Golf Design to give the course a historic look and feel.

The Palatka Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 4,700 to 5,800 yards. The holes gently tumble over the sandy ridges and wrap the tranquil woods of Ravine Gardens State Park. The experience at Palatka Golf Club revolves around the game's traditional cornerstones: a reasonable price, interesting holes, and a pleasant staff. The course can be enjoyed and played quickly, offering golfers the best thrills of the game without taking up the day.

A unique feature of Palatka Golf Club is its aqua driving range, where players drive their balls into a pond. It serves a dual purpose as a retention pond for the golf course. Bordering the golf course is the Ravine Gardens State Park.

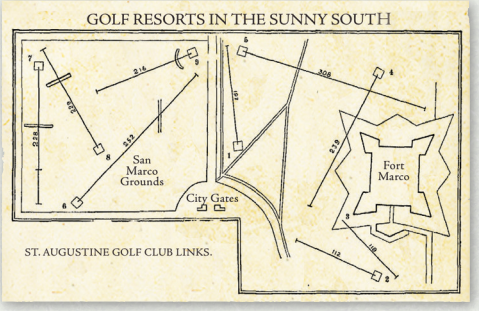
St. Augustine and the Fort

A remarkable 1902 photograph, to the right, features golfers teeing off on the 4th hole of the St. Augustine Golf Club, one of several holes adjacent to the landmark 17th century Castillo de San Marcos, which was then known as Fort Marion. The St. Augustine Golf Club officially opened its golf course in 1895 with three holes located on the grounds of the fort. The club soon acquired more nearby land and expanded to nine holes. Unlike many early clubs, membership was open to both men and women. As part of their agreement with the Fort, when the St. Augustine Golf Club disbanded in the 1920s, the club had to replace the greens, remove the tee boxes, and replant the grounds with grass. Today, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, operated by the National Park Service, remains Florida's dominant Spanish Colonial landmark and the oldest masonry fort in the United States.



People playing golf by the Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, 1902.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/27198)

In the early 1900s, the City of St. Augustine had three golf courses, the St. Augustine Golf Club, St. Augustine Country Club, and the Ponce de Leon which was designed by Donald Ross. In 1925, St. Augustine sought to become the "winter golf capital of America" when D.P. Davis, who had created Davis Island in Tampa, announced he was creating a new development, "Davis Shores" on nearby Anastasia Island. Davis hired golf architect A.W. Tillinghast to design two 18 hole golf courses. When Davis died in late 1926, his grand plans were never finalized.



Plan of the St. Augustine Golf Club from *Golf* magazine, February 1899.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

St. Johns County

Ponte Vedra Beach

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

200 Ponte Vedra Boulevard
850.453.7599
pontevedra.com/florida_golf_resorts/oceancourse

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Ocean Course is located in the unincorporated community of Ponte Vedra Beach in St. Johns County. What is now Ponte Vedra Beach remained sparsely populated through the late 19th century. In 1914 minerals, including titanium, were discovered in the local sands and a community known as Mineral City grew up around the mining operations of the National Lead Company. After World War I, the National Lead Company changed its focus to building a resort community. By the early 1920s, the company had built a 9-hole golf course and 12-room log clubhouse for the use of their employees. The community name was changed to Ponte Vedra, apparently after the city of Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain.

In 1928, golf course architect W.D. Clark of Chicago was hired to design and build a new 18-hole golf course on the site, named the Jacksonville Beach Golf Links. Due in part to prevailing ocean breezes and natural hazards, the golf course was declared to be just as hard as or harder than the Lido Course in Long Island, which had the reputation of being the hardest course in America at the time.

In 1931, British golf course architect Herbert Strong was hired to develop and build an 18-hole golf course. Roy Landrum, Sr. was superintendent for the job. A 1932 edition of the *Florida Times-Union* reported, "Thirty men are employed in the construction of the new half-million dollar golf links to be known as Ponte Vedra. The 130-acre golf course will have a $50,000 irrigation system and is part of the development of 17 miles of ocean frontage owned by the National Lead Company." Strong used 100 mules dragging slip pans to shape course contours, dredge lagoons and build up a series of earthen mounds that dot the fairways creating dramatic undulations. The new 18-hole layout opened in 1932.

High praises have showered the Ocean Course from the very beginning. In a 1938 *Golf* magazine article, Ponte Vedra's Ocean Course, Pebble Beach (CA), Oakmont (PA), and Pine Valley (NJ) are featured as the "Hardest Courses in America." In 1942, after completing a match on the Ocean Course, golf legend Bobby Jones commented, "it's a course to challenge professionals."

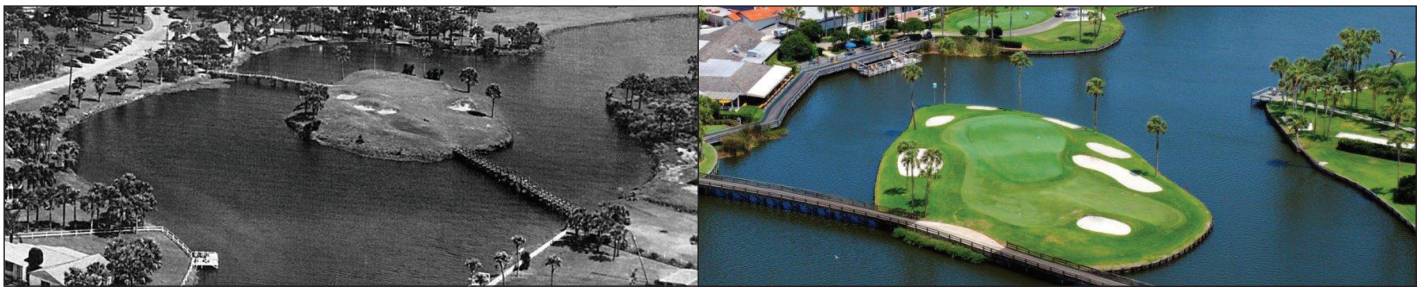


Postcard of the Inn, Ponte Vedra Beach, ca. 1930s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/159213)

Golf architect Robert Trent Jones was commissioned in 1947 to redesign the Ocean Course in an attempt to reduce some of the course's severity. In 1951, the Ocean Course hosted the Ponte Vedra Women's Open, drawing a powerful field of professionals such as Patty Berg, Louise Suggs and its winner, Babe Zaharias. In 1998 Bobby Weed renovated the Ocean Course, restoring much of the original architect's intent and look that had been lost over the decades.

The 18-hole, par-72 Ocean Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club features five sets of tees playing from 4,900 to 6,800 yards. The Ocean Course's 99 strategically positioned sand bunkers enhance the beauty and challenge of the golf experience. Designed to accommodate defensive pin positions, the elevated greens place a demand on thoughtful and accurate approach shots. Please note: To enjoy play on the Ocean Course, you must be a member or a registered guest at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

In 1938, the Ocean Course was selected as the site for the 1939 Ryder Cup Matches. United States Captain Walter Hagen said that the selection of the Ponte Vedra course was a very sporting gesture toward the English team, since their players felt at home on links by the sea where the wind plays tricks. Unfortunately, just months prior to the scheduled November event, the match was cancelled due to the onset of World War II. A message via cable from Charles Roe, Secretary of the British Professional Golfers Association, was sent to the PGA of America national office in Chicago that read, "When we have settled our differences and peace reigns, we will see that our team comes across to remove the Ryder Cup from your safekeeping."



September 1939 cover shot for *PGA Magazine* and a current aerial of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.
(Images courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club)



Suwannee Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Suwannee Country Club)

Suwannee County
Live Oak

Suwannee Country Club
7932 US 90
386.362.1147
suwanneecc.com

The Suwannee Country Club is located in the City of Live Oak in Suwannee County. In 1924, the Live Oak Golf and Country Club was organized for the purpose of acquiring a site and building a golf course. A site was chosen several miles east of town and a 9-hole golf course was open for play in 1926 with sand greens. Former Florida Governor Cary Hardee (1921-1925) was the club's first president.

The Suwannee Country Club includes a 9-hole, par-36 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 4,800 to 6,100 yards. The Club is semi-private, but open to the public with weekday and weekend rates. Amenities include a driving range, banquet hall with full kitchen, and access to White Lake.

Former Governor Cary Hardee made a hole-in-one on the 5th hole, while playing with a party of friends in 1928. Today, the short but difficult par-3, plays to a yardage of 134 yards. A mid-to-short iron for most, the difficulty lies in the small undulating green, and the oak tree just left of the green. To make birdie, an accurate iron shot and a great putt are required.



Golfers at the 1926 dedication of the Suwannee Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/29994)

Miniature and Goofy!

Miniature golf developed in several different locations during the early twentieth century. The pioneering course is believed to be "Thistle Dhu," built in 1916 on the estate of James Barber at Pinehurst, North Carolina.

As a variation of regulation golf, miniature golf allows only the use of a putter on a course with holes designed on a much smaller scale. These shorter holes may include obstacles where it is acceptable to bounce the ball off the sides and play angle shots. A key to popularizing the sport was the development of an artificial surface, an invention credited to Thomas McCulloch Fairburn, who created and patented an artificial surface from cottonseed hulls, sand, oil and green coloring. Fairburn's invention liberated the game from natural grass and maintenance issues, and made the game commercially viable. By the mid-1920s there were an estimated 150 miniature golf courses located just on New York City rooftops.

One of the prototypes for the miniature golf course was developed in 1926 in Tennessee. Garnett and Frieda Carter were the owners of the Fairyland Inn at the summit of Lookout Mountain. The course developed around the theme of the resort and featured sculptures of fairytale characters such as gnomes and elves, along with structural hazards. Although intended for children, the course quickly attracted adults. The Carters seized on the popularity of the course, patented the design, and secured the rights to Thomas Fairburn's artificial turf. The course design, known as the "Tom Thumb," was soon franchised, mass produced and constructed throughout the United States. While the Tom Thumb course was the model, hundreds of individually owned



Bayfront Mini Golf Course, St. Augustine.
(Image courtesy of the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State)

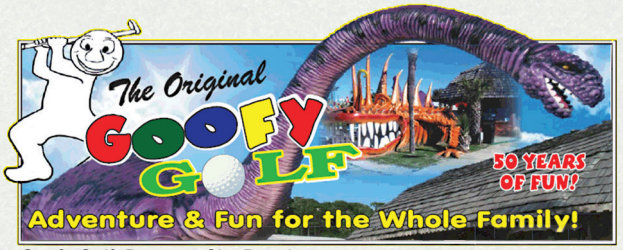
courses were constructed on vacant lots, rooftops and basements. By 1930, annual attendance for these attractions in the United States alone was estimated in the millions.

Miniature golf courses were innovative. They were among the first sports to have lighting for night play. Courses typically featured 18 holes, often with elaborate, mechanized hazards such as windmills and musical entertainment. Some courses featured bottomless final holes which returned balls to a clubhouse. The clubhouse typically provided balls, putters and scorecards and was the place where fees were collected. Curbing, which controlled putts, could be used like bumpers on a billiard table and added a dimension not found on conventional courses.

With the collapse of the stock market in 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression, miniature golf went into a period of decline. Following World War II, miniature golf experienced a revival in popularity, and during the 1950s, was promoted as a popular family activity and often associated with drive-in restaurants, motels and drive-in theaters. In the 1970s, courses were built using exotic themes such as waterfalls, pools, mountains caves, and light and sound effects.

Another common name for miniature golf is "putt-putt golf," however Putt-Putt® is the only patented game of miniature golf. Started by Don Clayton in 1954 in Fayetteville, North Carolina, one year later, Putt-Putt® franchises were being sold across the United States. Although Putt-Putt® has continued to test and add new attractions at its franchises over the years, the classic Putt-Putt® miniature golf remains the heart of each location. Today the Putt-Putt® brand is worldwide, and celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2014.

By 2015, Florida still had over 80 miniature golf courses in operation across the state. Historic miniature golf courses can be found in St. Augustine and Panama City. The Bayfront Mini Golf Course in downtown St. Augustine at 111 Avenida Menendez was constructed in 1949 just east of the historic seawall at the edge of the Matanzas River and south of the Bridge of the Lions. The golf course consists of 18 holes in a variety of geometric designs and a clubhouse. All features are constructed of poured concrete with a coquina (shellstone) aggregate, and the "fairways" are surfaced with green synthetic carpeting. Low trimmed hedges separate the 18 holes. Originally known as the St. Augustine Miniature Golf Course, on November 19, 2014 it became the first miniature golf course in Florida to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Goofy Golf, Panama City Beach.
(Image courtesy of Goofy Golf)

In the late 1950s, Lee Koplin imagined a mini golf course that transcended the familiar "Tom Thumb" courses of his childhood. In a bold move, Koplin developed a course with an individual feature, or theme, for each hole. He created larger-than-life concrete structures and obstacles, such as massive dinosaurs, a dragon, a sphinx, and most notably, a huge Easter Island head. Koplin opened his trademark design, Goofy Golf, in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1957. A year later he opened a Goofy Golf in Pensacola (which has since closed) and in Fort Walton Beach on Eglin Parkway, NE. In 1959, Koplin created one of his grandest designs in Panama City Beach on Front Beach Road, which is still owned and operated by the Koplin family.

Koplin is credited for influencing the miniature golf genre, which had evolved from a technical and rather austere form for grown-ups. The whimsical, oversized design of Goofy Golf appeals to all ages and has attracted thousands of visitors to Florida's Panhandle coast. Koplin passed away in 1988, but his legacy lives on in Fort Walton Beach and Panama City Beach where his courses are still in operation.


Goofy Golf, Panama City Beach.
(Image courtesy of Goofy Golf)



Daytona Beach Golf Club South Course.
(Image courtesy of the Daytona Beach Golf Club)

Volusia County
Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach Golf Club – South Course

600 Wilder Boulevard
386.671.3500
daytonabeachgc.com

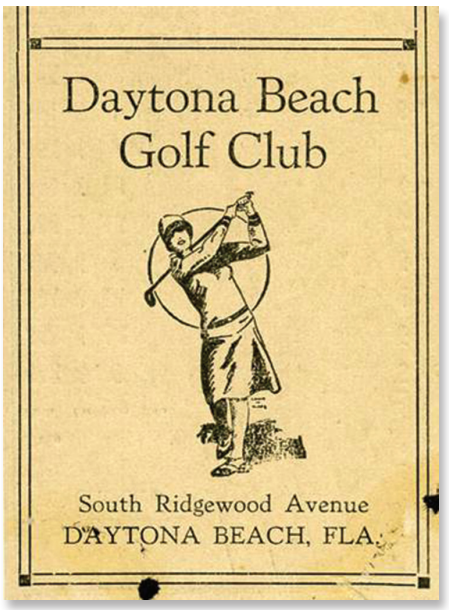
The Daytona Beach Golf Club – South Course is located in the City of Daytona Beach in Volusia County. Opening as the Daytona Golf and Country Club, the South Course was designed by the renowned golf course architect Donald Ross and built under the supervision of club president Carl H. Knappe. After eighteen months of preparation and hard labor, the first nine holes of the course were formally opened in 1921. The completed 18-hole golf course opened in January of 1923. In 1944, Ross returned to Daytona Beach to redesign several of the holes and greens, and observed that not all his design details were carried out in the original plans. In 1997, the course was redesigned by Lloyd Clifton, who had served as South Course greens keeper in the 1950s.

The 18-hole, par-71 South Course at the Daytona Beach Golf Club features three sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,200 yards. The course still follows some of the original routing laid out by Donald Ross and winds through dense areas of live oak and pine trees. With few water hazards, tee shots can be very forgiving, but approaches are demanding if players want to get close to the flag stick on the greens.

The current 4th hole is the hardest hole on the course. This par-5 stretches out 500 yards from the back tee and is bordered by the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad tracks along the entire length of the left side of the fairway. The current green is on the south side of Wilder Boulevard; however, the original green was located on the north side of Wilder Boulevard. Today, the old green complex is used as a practice green. Passing trains are common hazards on this golf course, since holes 4, 5, and 6 are separated from the main golf course by railroad tracks.



Driver golf club, ca. 1915-1930 and khaki cloth golf club cover, ca. 1930-1940.
(Images courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)



1935 Daytona Beach Golf Club scorecard.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)



New Smyrna Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the New Smyrna Golf Club)

New Smyrna Beach

New Smyrna Golf Club

1000 Wayne Avenue
386.424.2190
newsmyrnagolfclub.com

The New Smyrna Golf Club is located in the City of New Smyrna Beach in Volusia County. In 1948, W. Tydings gave the city 150 acres of land for the immediate construction of a golf course with the stipulations that the land had to be used for a golf course and had to be built within 10 years or Tydings would regain ownership of the land. James B. McGovern, a longtime design associate of Donald Ross, visited the site on behalf of Ross and secured the hiring of Donald Ross and Associates. Ground breaking and construction began later that year.

Nine holes were opened in early 1949, but then, due to a dispute over title to part of the land, work on the back nine was halted. Four more holes finally opened in 1953, which was a year after McGovern's death. The remaining five holes (the present third through seventh) weren't completed until 1956 and put into play the following spring. In 2006, Bobby Weed completely renovated the golf course.

The New Smyrna Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 5,500 to 6,500 yards. With easy access to the beautiful Atlantic coast and many more of Florida's most popular attractions, New Smyrna Golf Club is a haven for local and visiting golfers alike. On one of the earliest plans for the golf course the developers had included a horse stable and a bridle path that encircled the entire golf course property.

World Golf Village and Hall of Fame & Museum

WORLD GOLF VILLAGE®

WORLD GOLF HALL of FAME

Developed in the 1990s, the World Golf Village in St. Augustine is anchored by the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum, and provides a unique vacation destination with two championship golf courses, high-end accommodations and other amenities. The World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum is the centerpiece of the World Golf Village and works closely on a variety of initiatives with the world's leading golf organizations, including the PGA TOUR, the LPGA, the Masters, the USGA, the PGA of America, the PGA European Tour and The R&A, along with the professional tours in Asia, Australia, Japan and South Africa.

In order to preserve and honor the history of the game of golf and the legacies of those who have made it great, World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum exhibits feature artifacts, works of art, audio, video and photography significant to the history of golf. By exploring the early stick-and-ball forerunners that preceded the modern-day game, the museum presents more than five centuries of golf lore, including its formative years in Scotland and its global expansion into the 21st century.

The World Golf Village's two golf courses, the King & Bear and Slammer & Squire, feature design collaborations by four World Golf Hall of Fame members. King & Bear, named for its co-designers, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, is the first and only course design collaboration between two of golf's most respected and well-known ambassadors. Sam (The Slammer) Snead and Gene (The Squire) Sarazen served as consultants to course architect Bobby Weed to create Slammer & Squire.



World Golf Hall of Fame Museum exhibit.
(Image courtesy of the World Golf Hall of Fame)



Riviera Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Riviera Country Club)

Ormond Beach

Riviera Country Club

500 Calle Grande Street
386.677.2464
rivcc.com

The Riviera Country Club golf course is located in the City of Ormond Beach in Volusia County. Plans for Rio Vista on the Halifax, a 1924 development envisioned by an Ohio developer, included a golf course. In 1926, John Van Kleek, working for the Landscape Architectural firm A. D. Taylor designed a nine-hole golf course. By 1927, a hotel, 38 homes and more than 15 miles of paved roads had been developed. But this all came to a halt with the onset of the Great Depression. The arches that once marked the entrance to Rio Vista on the Halifax are among the few remaining structures from the development. Located on Calle Grande Street, the archways and Romanesque columns were built as a grand entryway for the Rio Vista subdivision platted in 1926.

In late 1953, the golf course was purchased by the Meyers family, and a year later the nine holes were remodeled by golf course architect Mark Mahannah. In 1967, an additional nine holes were designed by architect Dave Wallace. Over the years, well-known golf architect Lloyd Clifton gave a facelift to several holes and was instrumental in the look of the course and its present-day character. The Riviera Country Club is home to the longest-running Mini-Tour Event in the country, The Riviera Open, which began in 1960.

The Riviera Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,200 yards. Owners Eric and Charlotte Meyers continue the family tradition of a well-maintained and beautifully manicured championship course in the Ormond Beach area. Named one of *Golf Digest's* Best Places to Play in 2008-2009, Riviera Country Club welcomes golfers from around the world who enjoy a relaxed atmosphere where no tee times are required.

The par-4 10th hole was originally the 1st hole of the 1920s 9-hole golf course and retains its original routing. The fairway of this short par-4 is wider than it appears, but only if you can make it past the fairway bunker on the right. Any ball that makes it 220 yards off the tee will roll down the hill, leaving only a short pitch to this well-bunkered green. Players need to think twice before swinging from the heels, however, as out of bounds right and a collection of trees to the left will force them to find the short grass if they want to coax a birdie out of the shortest two-shotter on the course. The green has a gentle slope from rear left to front right, and is usually firm due to its elevation. Players are encouraged to plan for the rollout with their approach.

PGA TOUR

Florida has been home to the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) TOUR since 1979, when it relocated its headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Ponte Vedra Beach. The PGA TOUR is the world's foremost golf tour and the home of some of the world's top golfers including Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson, Luke Donald, Brandt Snedeker, Bubba Watson, Ernie Els, and Dustin Johnson. PGA TOUR is dedicated to expanding the game of golf and generating revenue for charitable causes through tour events.

In 1982, PGA TOUR built its own course, the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, which is home to the annual Players Championship golf tournament. The golf course was designed by the "first family of golf course architecture," Pete and Alice Dye. Lakes on the course were created for strategic play, and provided the fill which was used to create the contours of the first "stadium" mounding design. From these vantage points, thousands of spectators have unobstructed views of tournament play, similar to being in a baseball or football stadium. The Stadium Course has become one of the most recognizable courses in the country thanks to the intimidating par-3, 17th hole that features the famed island green.



Hole No. 17 of the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.
(Image courtesy of TPC Sawgrass)

Northeast Region

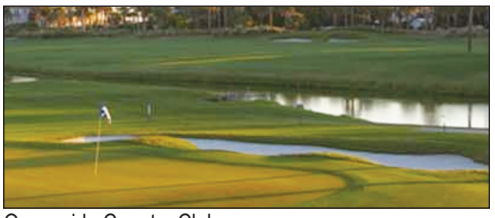
Other Historic Golf Courses in this Region



Hyde Park Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Hyde Park Golf Club)



Timuquana Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Timuqana Country Club)



Oceanside Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Oceanside Country Club)

Alachua County
Gainesville

Mark Bostick Golf Course at the University of Florida (private)
2800 SW 2nd Avenue
352.375.4866
ufgolfcourse.com

Bradford County
Keystone Heights

Keystone Golf and Country Club (public)
294 SE 43rd Street
352.473.4540

Clay County
Penney Farms

Penney Farms Golf Course (private)
3495 Hoffman Street
800.638.3138
penneyretirementcommunity.org/amenities-activities/golf

Duval County
Jacksonville

Hyde Park Golf Club (public)
6439 Hyde Grove Avenue
904.786.5410
hydeparkgolfclub.com



Brown leather golf bag and clubs, 1930s.
(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)

(continued)

Duval County
Jacksonville

NAS Jacksonville Golf Course (private)
808 Mustin Road
904.542.3249
navymwr.org/golf

San Jose Country Club (private)
7529 San Jose Boulevard
904.733.2020
sjccjax.com

Timuquana Country Club (private)
4028 Timuquana Road
904.388.2664
timuquana.net

Volusia County
Ormond Beach

Oceanside Country Club (private)
75 North Halifax Drive
386.677.7200
occ1907.com

"With nearly 1,300 golf facilities in the state, employing more than 167,000 Floridians and generating $13.8 billion in economic impact, golf is a huge component of Florida's overall tourism industry."

– Will Seccombe, President & CEO of VISIT FLORIDA, 2015

Women in Florida Golf History



Florida State College for Women students playing golf, 1936.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/25204)

Women have been participating in the game of golf since it was first played in Florida. In the late 1800s, when wealthy tourists vacationed at the luxury hotels built by Henry Flagler and Henry Plant, golf was a sport often enjoyed by both sexes.

One of the earliest references to women and golf in Florida dates to 1895 in St. Augustine. Newspapers of the day reported that when a devastating fire broke out in the city in March, members of the St. Augustine Golf Club voted to forgo their ladies tournament and contribute the prize money to those who suffered from the fire. Unlike many early clubs, the St. Augustine Golf Club allowed women to join without sponsorship from a male family member.

The state's capital city, Tallahassee, has a long history of golf and women golfers. Newspaper reports in 1908 record that, "a number of persons assembled" in Tallahassee to organize a country club with the "golf links already formed." The meeting place, owned at the time by Mrs. Reinette Long Hunt, was The Grove, the Greek revival home completed in ca. 1839 by Florida's territorial Governor Richard Keith Call. When the golf links were moved nearly a decade later to the Tallahassee Country Club, club rules went against the prevailing social attitude during the 1920s, and women were allowed to play on the course at any time. Known today as the Capital City Country Club, free use of the golf course was also provided to students of Florida State College for Women, which later became Florida State University.



Women golfers at the Royal Palm Hotel, Miami, 1905.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/29057)

In 1925, the Palm Beach Golf Club, now known as The Breakers, selected Miss **Bessie Fenn** as the club's head golf professional from a competitive field of hundreds of applicants. While Bessie's father, Arthur Fenn, had been the club professional for 27 years, she became the only woman at the time to serve as head golf professional of a prominent club in the United States. Fenn ran the club for 34 years before she passed away in 1963 at the age of 74.

In 1927, Jacksonville native **Winifred "Winnie" Holmes** founded both the Jacksonville Women's Golf Association and the Florida Women's State Golf Association, and spearheaded the effort to conduct a statewide championship for women golfers. In March of 1927, the first Florida Women's State Golf Association Championship was played on the Mount Plymouth Country Club golf course near Orlando. Holmes won the inaugural event. Now known as the Women's Amateur Championship, the tournament is still being played today. Winifred "Winnie" Holmes was inducted into the Florida State Golf Association Hall of Fame in 2012.



Women golfers at the Biltmore Hotel Golf Course, Coral Gables, 1925.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/37252)

Tennis legend **Althea Gibson** attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee on a full athletic scholarship and earned her bachelor's degree in 1953. In 1963, after retiring from tennis, Gibson chose golf as her second career, and became the first African American to join and compete on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour. One of the LPGA's top 50 money winners for over five years, Gibson was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

Patty Berg was the first president of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and a leading player on the LPGA Tour during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, winning a total of 57 tournaments. Her 15 major wins remain the all-time record for most major wins by a female golfer. In 1978, the LPGA established the Patty Berg Award given to an individual who "exemplifies diplomacy, sportsmanship, goodwill and contributions to the game of golf." Berg is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Along with PGA Tour player and fellow Fort Myers resident Nolan Henke, Berg established the Nolan Henke-Patty Berg Junior Masters golf tournament to promote the development of young players. Berg has been inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame and the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Louise Suggs was a founding member of the LPGA. She won the United States and British Amateur Championships, and as a professional went on to win 61 LPGA tournaments, including 11 major championships. Suggs served as LPGA President from 1955-1957, and was the first female inductee into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Since 2000, the LPGA has presented the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year Award in her honor. She moved to Delray Beach in the early 1960s, and later to a retirement community at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. In 2015, Louise Suggs became one of the first female members of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in Scotland. She died in Sarasota, Florida later that year.

JoAnne Carner's nickname became "Big Momma" when she won 23 of her 43 career wins in the 1970s. She is the only woman to have won the U.S. Girls' Junior, U.S. Women's Amateur, and U.S. Women's Open titles, and was the first person ever to win three different USGA championship events.



Women golfers at the Granada Golf Course, Coral Gables, 1926.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/31865)



Women golfers at the Florida Caverns Golf Course, Marianna, 1962.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/79844)

In 2004, at the age of 64, Carner extended her record as the oldest player to make a cut on the LPGA Tour. Today, the JoAnne Carner Golf Academy for Ladies is located at Palm Beach National Golf and Country Club in Lake Worth. Carner has been inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame and the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Pat Bradley was born in Massachusetts and played collegiate golf at Florida International University in Miami where she was named an All-American in 1970. Bradley went on to become a member of the LPGA Tour in 1974 and won 31 tour events, including six major championships. Bradley has been inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame and the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias, one of the greatest female athletes of the 20th century, played and taught golf near her home in Tampa at the end of her life. Read about her on page 27.



Women golfers on a course at Miami Beach, 1921.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/29136)



Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course)

Brevard County
Melbourne

Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course

475 West New Haven Avenue
321.674.5716
cranecreekgolf.net

The Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course is located in the City of Melbourne in Brevard County. The Melbourne Golf and Country Club opened in 1920 as a 6-hole golf course. Designed by M.K.V. Davis, it was expanded to a 9-hole course a year later. As the game and the golf course became more popular, it was decided that a complete 18-hole golf course was needed. In 1926, renowned golf course architect Donald Ross was commissioned to design a new 18-hole layout, and the golf course was officially opened in 1928. Newspaper articles reported that President Warren G. Harding enjoyed playing on the golf course.

The 18-hole, par-71 Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,600 to 5,800 yards. It offers opportunities for beginners and advanced golfers and is considered to be among the best public golf courses in Central Florida.

In 1925, along the banks of the Crane Creek canal, which runs through the golf course, geologists found human remains from 10,000 to 8,000 BC along-side fossilized bones of a mastodon. The human skull that was found came to be known as "Melbourne Man" and was exhibited at the 1925 meeting of the Paleontological Society of America and was studied at the Smithsonian Institution.



Golfers at the Melbourne Golf and Country Club, 1925.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/18092)

DeSoto County
Arcadia

Arcadia Municipal Golf Course

1769 NE Livingston Street
863.494.4223
arcadiamunicipalgolfcourse.com

The Arcadia Municipal Golf Course is located in the City of Arcadia in DeSoto County. Not long after the city was founded, Arcadians began insisting that the city build a golf course in order to attract more tourists. Spearheaded by A.C. Polk, in 1917, the Arcadia Golf and Auto Club was organized and received support from Albert W. Gilchrist, Florida's 20th Governor and golf enthusiast. Gilchrist offered a long term lease, free of charge, on land that he owned, for the construction of a 9-hole golf course. However, the golf course was never built due in part to World War I. In 1919, Arcadians again took up the matter of the golf course. The Golf Club enlisted the services of Harry Cowie to design the 9-hole layout. They began construction in the fall of 1922, and on that Christmas Day, several matches were played on the course to celebrate its official opening, though only a few holes were open. All nine holes were completed in 1923. In 2001, the city added another nine holes and renovated the existing golf course.

The 18-hole, par-71 Arcadia Municipal Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,800 to 5,800 yards. The course has open fairways and sloping greens with Bermuda grass. Several original holes from the Harry Cowie layout are still in use today. They are the current 1st hole (part of old 6th including the green), 2nd (old 5th), 3rd (old 3rd), 8th (old 4th), 9th (shortened old 7th), 10th (green is old 8th green and the adjacent driving range is the old 8th fairway), 11th (old 9th), 12th (old 1st), 17th (old 2nd), and 18th (part of old 6th).



Arcadia Municipal Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Arcadia Municipal Golf Course)

"It seems to be very clear that a first class golf course is one of the most desirable assets a town or city in Florida can have."

– The Punta Gorda Herald, March 18, 1920.



Pinecrest Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Pinecrest Golf Club)

Highlands County

Avon Park

Pinecrest Golf Club

2250 South Little Lake Bonnet Road
863.453.7555
golfpinecrest.com

The Pinecrest Golf Club is located in the City of Avon Park in Highlands County. In the 1890's Harlan Page Davidson purchased a tract of land on Lake Lotela for a hotel and golf course. In 1925, Harlan's son, Col. Royal Page Davidson, contracted with golf course architect Bertie Way of Cleveland to design a golf course. A year later, the clubhouse and first nine holes of the golf course were complete. In 1936, E.B. Hitchcock of Chicago bought the property and began plans to expand the golf course to 18-holes. The property was sold several times over the next few decades.

The Pinecrest Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring five sets of tees playing from 4,900 to 6,700 yards. The multiple tees allow players to select a course length that can be either challenging or friendly and fun. Unlike many Florida courses, Pinecrest doesn't wind its way through condominiums, winter homes & hotels. Pinecrest features relatively open fairways with tricky approaches and challenging greens. Its traditional layout is bordered by beautiful orange groves and natural wooded areas.

In 1959, Pinecrest hosted a televised match play elimination tournament for one of the biggest purses in golf at the time - $171,000. The tournament was part of "World Championship Golf" which was televised over the NBC-TV network later that winter. The eight golfers who played were all Ryder Cup team members. Dr. Cary Middlecoff, a former dentist, won the event.



Golfer and caddie at Pinecrest Golf Club, ca. 1920s.
(Image courtesy of the Avon Park Historical Society)

Golf Channel

The idea of creating a 24-hour cable television golf network originated in the early 1990s when Alabama media entrepreneur Joseph E. Gibbs became a friend and admirer of Arnold Palmer. Seeing how "The King" could inspire others to appreciate and enjoy the game, Gibbs saw the potential for a channel fully dedicated to all things considering the game of golf. With Palmer's reputation and connection to the golf industry, and Gibbs' experience developing cable and communication companies, the two partnered their strengths, and in February of 1993 announced plans to launch the Golf Channel.

Golf Channel launched from the first fully digital production facility in the United States on January 17, 1995, from Orlando, Florida. In its first year, the network televised 23 domestic tournaments and 41 European and Australian events. In 2007, Golf Channel embarked on a 15-year agreement as the exclusive cable television home for the PGA TOUR. Twenty years after its launch, the network provides coverage of 47 PGA TOUR events, and its own instructional programs, specials and original series, with programming available in more than 120 million homes in 83 countries and 12 languages worldwide through cable, satellite and wireless platforms.



"Morning Drive" show on Golf Channel.
(Image courtesy of Golf Channel)



Sebring Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Sebring Golf Club)

Sebring

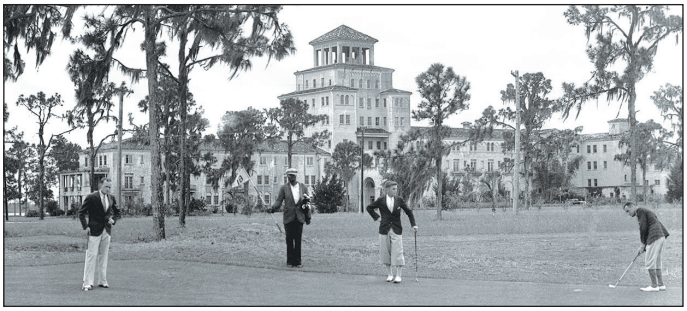
Sebring Golf Club

3118 Golfview Road
863.314.5919
sebringgolfclub.com

The Sebring Golf Club is located in the City of Sebring in Highlands County. In 1924, the City of Sebring appropriated the money to build a municipal golf course, selecting 160 acres on the south side of Lake Jackson. In January 1925, golf architect W. H. "Bert" Way of the Mayfield Country Club of Cleveland, Ohio came to Sebring to lay out the municipal golf course. A.D. Taylor, a city planner and landscape architect also from Cleveland, had the contract to build the course, and construction immediately followed. In early 1926, nine holes of the golf course were opened for play, while the other nine were under construction. The complete 18-hole course officially opened in 1929.

The 18-hole, par-72 Sebring Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,900 to 6,200 yards. In the style of an older, traditional Florida golf course, Sebring offers a relaxing, enjoyable round of golf for players of all skill levels. Sebring Golf Course ranks as the cornerstone of the city's recreational amenities, known around town as "The Muni." The Muni also welcomes and encourages walkers.

The golf course features several dog-leg holes but none more severe than the 2nd hole. Dating back to the original routing, the par-4 hole turns nearly 90 degrees, and plays from 245 to 308 yards, tempting golfers to cut the corner.



Historic image of golfers playing in front of Harder Hall, Sebring.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/165315)

Hillsborough County

Tampa

Babe Zaharias Golf Course

11412 Forest Hills Drive
813.631.4374
babezahariasgolf.net

The Babe Zaharias Golf Course is located in North Tampa in Hillsborough County. In the 1920s, the B. L. Hamner Organization created a 2,000 acre development known as the North Side Country Club area which was to feature two 18-hole golf courses. Only one course, the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, was built, and opened in 1926. The golf course was designed and built by J. Franklin Meehan, a landscape architect and golf course builder from Philadelphia. Meehan was known for building golf courses quickly. Golf Professional Jimmy Thompson was quoted as saying "I would not say that Forest Hills is a good course, it is an exceptional one."

In 1950, Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias, one of the world's greatest female athletes of the 20th century, became the winter golf professional for the club. In that same year, she and her husband George purchased the golf course and changed the name to the Tampa Golf and Country Club. Zaharias lived in Tampa until her death in 1956 at age 45, and the golf course was abandoned for many years after her death. In 1974 the City of Tampa re-opened the golf course and named it in her honor. Babe Zaharias Golf Course has hosted many tournaments for the Tampa Bay area, including the Babe Memorial Tournament sponsored by the Optimist Club and the Annual Babe Zaharias Day Tournament.

The 18-hole, par-70, Babe Zaharias golf course features three sets of tees playing from 4,800 to 6,200 yards. Located in the tree-lined residential neighborhood of Forest Hills, this short course plays very tight and will



The 13th hole at the Babe Zaharias Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Babe Zaharias Golf Course)

provide a real test for the average golfer. The back nine sports four par-4s in excess of 400 yards, providing a challenging course for golfers of all skill levels. Golf at The Babe for a true Tampa Bay area tradition. The front nine is called the "Babe" and the back nine is called the "George" in honor of Babe's husband, former professional wrestler George Zaharias. The 10th hole is affectionately called the "Big George."



Forest Hills Golf and Country Club clubhouse (no longer existing), 1926.
(Image courtesy of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)

Babe Didrikson Zaharias

During the 1950s, Florida was home to one of the world's greatest female athletes of the 20th century, Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias. Born on June 26, 1911 in Port Arthur, Texas, she was nicknamed "Babe" after baseball legend Babe Ruth, when her athletic talents became apparent at a young age. She was an all-sport star in high school, excelling in tennis, swimming, baseball, basketball and volleyball. Babe was an All-American forward in the Women's National Basketball League from 1930-1932, and in the 1932 Olympics she won gold medals in track and field.

In 1938, having played golf for only three years, Zaharias entered a men's Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Los Angeles Open golf tournament and was paired with a 30-year-old professional wrestler, George Zaharias, who later become her husband. She shot an 84 the first day and 81 on the second, missing the cut. When she qualified for the 1945 Los Angeles Open, she played from the men's tees, and became the first woman in history to make the two-day 36 hole cut in a PGA tournament. She missed the third-day cut at Los Angeles but went on to play all four rounds at the Phoenix Open that same year and finished in 33rd place.



Babe Didrikson Zaharias with her husband George in St. Augustine, 1947.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/55707)

Babe soon became a force in the golfing world and won nearly every women's golf title, including four world championships and three United States Women's Opens. In 1947, she became the first American to win the British Women's Amateur Championship. She went on to win three United States Women's Open Championships, in 1948, 1950 and 1954. In 1948, she helped found the Ladies Professional Golf Association and was the LPGA's leading money winner. In all, Babe Didrikson Zaharias won 82 amateur and professional golf tournaments. Her last seven wins, including the 1954 Women's Open, came after she was diagnosed with cancer.



Babe Didrikson Zaharias with professional golfer Gene Sarazen, 1930s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/254547)

In 1950, the Associated Press voted her Woman Athlete of the Half-Century. That same year Babe and her husband George moved to Tampa, Florida and purchased the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club. They renamed the course the Tampa Golf and Country Club and moved into the caddy house just off the putting green. Babe became the club's professional and hosted clinics and exhibitions. They built their dream home, Rainbow Manor, a ranch style house, just up the road overlooking a lake, where they lived until her death at the age of 45 in September 1956. In 1974, the City of Tampa renamed the course in her honor, and hosts the annual Babe Zaharias Day Tournament to benefit cancer treatment. Babe Zaharias is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and the Florida Sports Hall of Fame.

"Before I was ever in my teens, I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up. My goal was to be the greatest athlete that ever lived."

– Babe Zaharias



Rocky Point Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Rocky Point Golf Course)

Rocky Point Golf Course

4151 Dana Shores Drive
813.673.4316
rockypointgolf.net

The Rocky Point Golf Course is located in the City of Tampa in Hillsborough County. In 1910, The Tampa Automobile Club made arrangements to build a club house and spacious golf links at Rocky Point. The Club hired Atlanta golf expert F.G. Byrd to lay out an 18-hole golf course. The plans prepared by Byrd included surrounding the course with ditches in order to drain water. Byrd also recommended planting a palmetto tree at each tee. Construction soon followed and Golf Professional C.J. Smith was in charge of laying out the course. Nine holes were opened for play in 1912, and the 18-hole layout was completed in 1913. The Tampa Automobile and Golf Club changed its name to the Rocky Point Golf Club in 1917.

In 1931, former Rocky Point caddy and head professional, Ed Dudley won the Western Open Championship beating Walter Hagen by four strokes. In 1941, the federal government took over the golf course and closed it for use as part of Drew Army Airfield. Two years later the course was reopened to officers and enlisted men of Drew Field, and to personnel of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

In 1953, the Government turned the property over to the City of Tampa for $1. The city then leased it to J.S. Curly Hurtman for 25 years who with his wife, Merle, reopened the course in 1954. Merle took over operations when Curly passed away in 1957. Once the Hurtman's lease expired in 1978, the city turned course operations over to the Tampa Sports Authority. Today, the Tampa Sports Authority manages Rocky Point, the Babe Zaharias Golf Course, Rogers Park Golf Course and Raymond James Stadium.

The 18-hole, par-71 Rocky Point Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,900 to 6,300 yards, offering challenges for all skill levels. Golfers can experience a pleasurable but adventurous round of golf, with many areas reserved for wildlife habitat and bird sanctuaries. Rocky Point Golf Course provides Tampa Bay area golfers a beautiful yet challenging course, full driving range, pro shop and full service restaurant.

In the early part of the 1900s, the Tampa cigar industry was inundated by frequent strikes and brief walkouts by its workers. This trouble in the cigar industry affected the development at Rocky Point and temporarily delayed the construction of both the clubhouse and golf links.



Golfers on the Rocky Point Golf Course, 1920s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/145459)

Play Hickory Golf!



Hickory golf clubs.
(Image courtesy of the Florida Hickory Golfers)

As the interest in the history of golf grows, so does a worldwide movement of golfers who want to experience the roots of the game by playing with hickory shafted golf clubs. These "hickory golfers" play with clubs that have authentic wood shafts, or reproductions of golf clubs that were built prior to 1935.

The modern day hickory golf movement in the United States developed from "hickory hacker" events that were held in conjunction with annual meetings of the Golf Collectors Society. In 2000, in recognition of the growing interest in hickory golf, the Society of Hickory Golfers (SOHG) was created. The SOHG works to help popularize the sport, provide guidelines and rules for hickory golf tournaments, establish equipment standards, and serve as a central source of information to resources and maintenance tips for wood-shafted clubs.

In Florida, a growing group of golfers are also dedicated to preserving the historic authenticity of the game. The Florida Hickory Golfers are a group of men and women who enjoy playing golf with hickory shafted clubs. In 2009, hickory enthusiast Kody Kirchhoff from Omaha, Nebraska moved to Tampa and began playing with Mike Stevens, an accomplished hickory player and three time winner of the National Hickory Championship. In March 2010, Kirchhoff and Stevens hosted the first Florida Hickory Golfers event. The group sponsors events at golf courses throughout Florida, preferring to play courses built before the early 1930s. Stevens has also established the Professional Hickory Golfers Association in Florida, to promote and encourage the playing of hickory golf among professional golfers in the state and throughout the United States.



Hickory golf clubs.
(Image courtesy of the Florida Hickory Golfers)

The Florida Hickory Golfers group has sets of hickory clubs that can be made available to interested players who don't have their own. For several years, the Pro Shop at Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club near Tampa has made sets of vintage 1920s/1930s hickory golf clubs available for play. For those who want to build their own set, a basic hickory starter set might consist of a Brassie, Mid Iron, Mashie, Mashie Niblick, Niblick, and Putter. (See hickory golf club names on page 7 for additional information.)



Hickory golfers in Florida.
(Image courtesy of the Florida Hickory Golfers)



Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club, 1924.
(Image courtesy of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)

Temple Terrace

Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club

200 Inverness Avenue
813.988.1791
templeterracegolf.com

Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club is located in the City of Temple Terrace in Hillsborough County. The history of Temple Terrace Golf Course has been physically and culturally interwoven with the city's history since the early 1920s. The golf course was an integral part of the original plat of the development of Temple Terrace. With a rolling terrain along the Hillsborough River, and land cleared by timbering, the golf course was a key part of the developer's marketing plan of an exotic resort community that was exclusive yet accessible.

Early promotional literature for Temple Terrace Estates prominently featured the golf course, stating, "The eighteen hole Temple Terraces golf course, destined to be one of the finest in the South, was built for the pleasure of the Club members and their guests, and when you buy a grove you automatically become a life member of the club."

The developers hired one of the world's most prolific early golf course designers, Scottish born Tom Bendelow, who was a pioneer in the establishment and growth of the game in America. In a career that spanned little more than 35 years, he is credited with laying out hundreds of golf courses across the United States and Canada. Bendelow is perhaps best known for his layouts at Medinah Country Club in Chicago and for Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, Illinois.

In 1921, Bendelow arrived from Chicago to look over the Temple Terrace property. He was very much impressed with the beautiful, natural location for a golf course. Work began on the course later that year and the first nine holes were open for play in 1922. The following year, the 18-hole golf course was completed and officially opened. At over 6,600 yards it would be one of the longest golf courses in Florida at that time.

The course is laid out in a "returning nines" design. The idea of returning nines – where a course has two loops of nine holes, each beginning and ending at the clubhouse – dates to the early nineteenth century, and has become a standard approach for golf course design. A returning nines course allows for greater flexibility in the number of rounds played each day, as there can be two starting points, or golfers have the option of playing just nine holes. A single fairway course (as opposed to a course where the fairways parallel each other) uses more land acreage than other types, but creates more space for house lots overlooking the course, as is the case at Temple Terrace.

When Bullard Parkway (originally Temple Terrace Highway) was widened beginning in 1999, tunnels were added under the roadway for use by golf carts and pedestrians. In 2012, the Temple Terrace Golf Course became the second Florida golf course listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

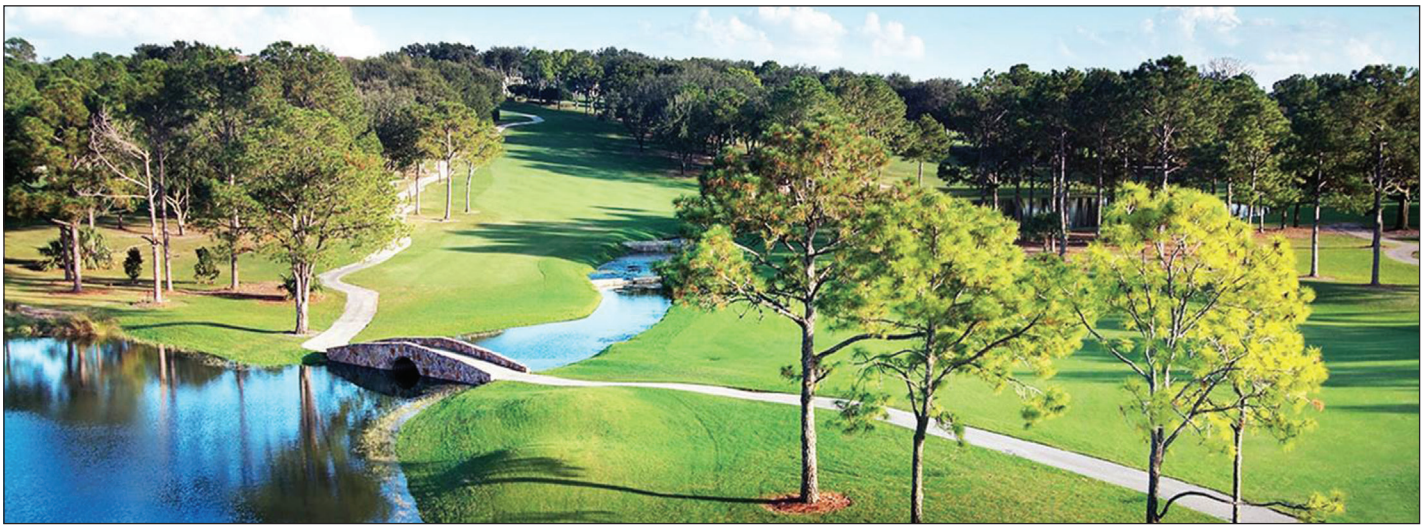
The Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,400 to 6,400 yards. Winding through the historic Temple Terrace Estates community, the original routing follows the natural contours of the land. While some courses have adjusted to improvements in club and ball technology by making holes considerably longer, the Temple Terrace Golf Course continues to challenge players with its narrow fairways and small greens, while retaining original yardages. The result is a playable course that rewards the skilled golfer.

The original Mediterranean Revival clubhouse located behind the 18th green now belongs to Florida College and is used as a dormitory. Renowned Tampa architect M. Leo Elliott designed the Temple Terrace Country Club, which was built as the centerpiece of the golf course community in 1922.

There is no driving range at Temple Terrace. However, players can hit practice balls on a select number of holes. Woods, long irons and short irons can be used on holes number 2, 7, 10 and 14, but only short irons are allowed on hole number 9. Players using practice areas should use marked balls and stay in the fairway.



Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the City of Temple Terrace)



Mission Inn Resort & Club – El Campeón.
(Image courtesy of the Mission Inn Resort & Club – El Campeón)

Lake County

Howey-in-the-Hills

Mission Inn Resort & Club – El Campeón

10400 Country Road 48
800.874.9053
missioninnresort.com

The Mission Inn Resort & Club's El Campeón Course is located in the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills in Lake County. The town was named for William J. Howey, its founder, who was one of central Florida's first large-scale citrus growers and land promoters. In 1914, Howey began purchasing land in the area and by 1920 had accumulated 60,000 acres for his development project. The town of "Howey" was incorporated in 1925 and two years later changed its name to Howey-in-the-Hills. Howey envisioned a great citrus empire with the town as the commercial and shipping hub.



Golfers teeing off at number 4 hole (current 13th hole), 1930s, Mission Inn Resort & Club - El Campeón.
(Image courtesy of the Orange County Regional History Center, Orlando)

To attract investors and visitors, Howey hired Chicago-based golf course architect George O'Neil, to design an 18-hole golf course. O'Neil claimed that "this will be America's most famous course in a short while." Howey began promoting the links as the Howey Golf Club in 1916, though the course officially opened in 1917. After a decade of use, Captain Charles E. Clarke of Troon, Scotland was brought in to rework and update the golf course. The golf course was also known as the Chain-O'-Lakes Golf Course, Bougainvillea Golf Club and the Floridan Country Club.

In 2009, the El Campeón Course, which means "the Champion," was awarded the Florida Golf Course of the Year by the National Golf Course Owners Association. El Campeón has been the site for many tournaments, including NCAA events, the Florida State High School Championships, and eleven collegiate championships.

The 18-hole, par-72 El Campeón Course at Mission Inn Resort & Club features six tees playing from 4,800 to 7,000 yards, allowing players of varying skill levels to either challenge themselves, or enjoy the course at a more leisurely pace. El Campeón tests players with elevation changes of more than 85 feet, rolling fairways and undulating greens. The family-owned, award-winning resort and convention facility sits on beautifully landscaped grounds. In addition to golf, the resort offers a five-star tennis facility, four elegant dining areas, a restored river yacht and a marina on Lake Harris.

Water comes into play on 13 of the 18 holes on the El Campeón Course and nowhere more dramatically than the 8th hole. Named "Island Green," the downhill par-3 hole plays from 100 to 190 yards over water to a peninsula green. Two bunkers, left and behind, provide the only safe bailout areas. This water hole will swallow up any errant shots and dates back to George O'Neil's original 1917 design.

Mount Dora

Mount Dora Golf Club

1100 South Highland Street
352.383.3954
mountdoragolf.com

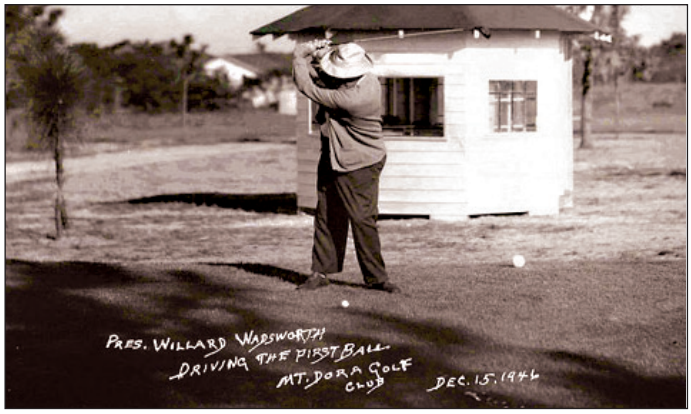


Mount Dora Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Mount Dora Golf Club)

Mount Dora Golf Club is located in the City of Mount Dora in central Lake County. The Mount Dora Golf Association was formed in 1945 when G.I.s returning from World War II petitioned the City of Mount Dora for a golf course. The city agreed to lease 80 acres along the Orange County line for this purpose. Using mule power and a bulldozer, these men crafted the first nine holes. On December 15th, 1946, the first ball was hit by Willard Wadsworth, President of the new Mount Dora Golf Association. The city gave the new golf course an unused traffic kiosk for the first pro shop. Nine holes were added in 1959 and the present clubhouse was built in the 1960s.

The Mount Dora Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-70 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 5,200 to 5,700 yards. Billed by the Club as "The Longest 5,700 yards in Florida," this golf course with varied elevation manages the difficult task of challenging serious players while helping rookies relax as they learn this classic game.

Several holes from the original 9-hole layout are still in use today - starting with current 1st hole (old 1st), 2nd (old 3rd), the 3rd and 4th make up the old 4th hole, 8th (old 5th), 15th (old 7th played in opposite direction) and the 17th (old 8th).



Willard Wadsworth, President of the Mount Dora Golf Association, hits the first ball at the Mount Dora Golf Club, 1946.
(Image courtesy of the Mount Dora Golf Club)

Orange County

Orlando

Dubsdread Golf Course

549 West Par Street
407.246.2551
historicaldubsdread.com



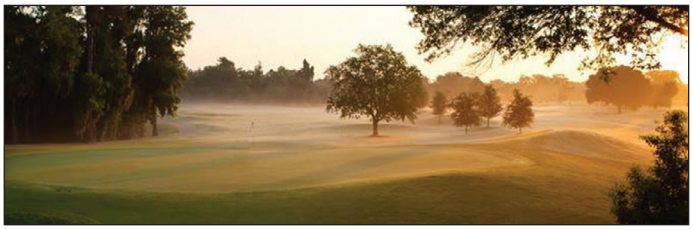
Dubsdread Country Club, hand-colored postcard, ca. 1940s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/160350)

The Dubsdread Golf Course is located in the City of Orlando in Orange County. On a weekend in 1923, when Carl Dann, Sr., a major Central Florida developer, had a disagreement with the Orlando Country Club, he began recruiting members to form a club on his own. Within a day, he had lined up at least 100 founding members for his new club. Construction began in 1923 and Dann is believed to have been the designer. One story has it that Dann and a couple of members helped lay out the course by hitting shots through the woods. Everywhere a ball fell, a sand trap was placed.

Opening in 1924, Dubsdread derives its name from the intent of instilling dread in "dubs," or novice golfers. Along with many other well-known golfers, Patty Berg, Jimmy Demaret, Sam Snead and Babe Zaharias played Dubsdread in the 1940s and 1950s, and the course hosted the Orlando Open from 1945-47. The City of Orlando purchased the golf course in the late 1970s. In 2008, the course underwent an extensive renovation, during which all 18 holes were updated and a section of the public street that had previously crossed the 17th and 18th fairways was closed.

The 18-hole, par-70 Dubsdread Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,100 to 6,100 yards. Golfers are treated to the same beautiful scenery and challenges of the original course, including narrow fairways and heavily bunkered, "postage stamp" style greens.

Legend has it that Ky Laffoon, a veteran tour pro, had such a bad temper that after a particularly costly three-putt on the 18th hole, Laffoon ran to his car, pulled a gun out of the trunk, and shot the offending putter three times. Laffoon was reported to have shouted, ''That's the last time you'll three-putt on me!" He then gathered up the pieces of the club and buried them in a sand trap by the 18th green.



Dubsdread Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Dubsdread Golf Course)



Winter Park Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the City of Winter Park)

Winter Park

Winter Park Country Club

761 Old England Avenue
407.599.3339
winterparkcountryclub.com

The Winter Park Country Club is located in the City of Winter Park in Orange County. Chartered in 1887, the city was developed as a winter resort for wealthy northerners seeking refuge from harsh winters, and a tranquil place to rest and relax. The city was first named Lakeview in 1858 and re-named Osceola in 1870. Eleven years later, the name "Winter Park" was chosen by its founders, who wanted the town name to reflect the pleasure of enjoying an outdoor park in winter.

The city's golfing heritage dates back to 1900 when its first course, located south of the existing course and adjacent to Rollins College, was designed by John Dunn of Scotland. Dunn's golf course was closed in less than ten years due to the growth of the town and college.

In 1914, Harley A. Ward and Dow George were commissioned to lay out a 9-hole course on 25 acres at the north end of town. That same year the Winter Park Country Club was formed. One of the club's first activities was to build a clubhouse, which is still in use today. In that same year the newly formed club contracted with Dow George to build an additional 18-hole golf course which would wrap around the 9-hole "short" course. Complaints of cattle wandering on the fairways prompted the city to install a gate and fencing around the course in 1915. However, a few years later the club turned its links into a green pasture for sheep and goats in order to help solve the shortage of meat supply during World War I. This also reduced the club's need to frequently mow the fairways.

In 1926, with the opening of the Aloma Country Club and Golf Course, across Lake Osceola, the Winter Park Country Club golf courses were closed. When the Aloma facility went out of business ten years later, the Winter Park Country Club re-organized at their old site. They combined holes from the 18-hole and 9-hole golf courses to produce a new 9-hole layout. The golf course and clubhouse were rehabilitated, and the course was reopened in 1937.

In 1999, the Winter Park Golf Course became the first golf course in Florida to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the same time, the original 1914 clubhouse was also listed on the National Register.

Located in the heart of the historic town, the Winter Park Country Club includes a 9-hole, par 35 golf course featuring two sets of tees playing from 2,300 to 2,400 yards. The Country Club is a staple for locals and tourists alike. On any given day of the week, visitors can find a good group to play with. In 2010, Winter Park Country Club was voted the second best public golf course in the greater Orlando area by *Orlando Magazine* and was featured on an episode of The Golf Channel's travel show *GolfNow.*

Residents of Winter Park have embraced the history of their golf course and are proud of their unique facility. Together with passionate golfers, recognizing the significance of the course, they have worked to maintain this course as one of Florida's very best public access golf courses.

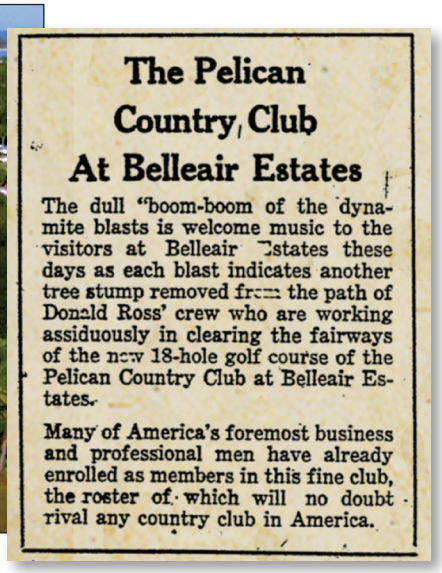
The first hole of the Winter Park golf course was once the opening hole for both the 18-hole and 9-hole golf courses. Both courses shared the first hole. Golfers would then go to a different second hole, depending on which layout they were playing.



Sheep grazing at Winter Park Country Club, 1920.
(Image courtesy of the Rollins College Archives)



Belleview Biltmore Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club)



The Pelican Country Club At Belleair Estates

The dull "boom-boom of the dynamite blasts is welcome music to the visitors at Belleair Estates these days as each blast indicates another tree stump removed from the path of Donald Ross' crew who are working assiduously in clearing the fairways of the new 18-hole golf course of the Pelican Country Club at Belleair Estates.

Many of America's foremost business and professional men have already enrolled as members in this fine club, the roster of which will no doubt rival any country club in America.

Article on the construction of the Pelican Country Club, *Evening Independent*, St. Petersburg, April 13, 1926.
(Image courtesy of Scott Edwards)

Pinellas County

Belleair

Belleview Biltmore Golf Club

1501 Indian Rocks Road
727.581.5498
belleviewbiltmoregolf.com

The Belleview Biltmore Golf Club is located in the Town of Belleair in Pinellas County. Originally named the Pelican Country Club, the golf course was built in conjunction with the residential development known as Belleair Estates. Noted Boston town planner, John Nolen was hired to design the streets that still constitute most of Belleair today. The golf course was designed by renowned golf course architect Donald Ross, who personally visited the site and claimed it was "one of the finest in the South." Using hundreds of pounds of dynamite to separate trees and stumps from the ground, a crew of 100 men and 35 teams of mules began work on the course in early 1926. The course officially opened in late December of that same year, with Gil Nichols as its first professional.

In the 1990s, the owners of the nearby Belleview Biltmore hotel purchased the Pelican Golf Course and renamed it Belleview Biltmore Country Club. In 2001, golf course architect Lewis "Chip" Powell was hired to bring back the architectural integrity of Ross' original design while making it challenging to players using modern equipment. In 2012, the Town of Belleair purchased the golf course and renamed it the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club. The club came under new ownership and management at the beginning of 2013.

The Belleview Biltmore Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,600 yards. The course is known to be a pleasure for men, women, seniors, and youngsters no matter what their skill level. Golf purists know that Donald Ross course designs test their accuracy with slightly tighter fairways, water hazards, strategic bunkers, and well-placed trees. Players find that the course offers the variety to keep their rounds interesting from the first tee to the eighteenth green.

The 440 yard 9th hole is ranked as the second hardest hole on the golf course today and has historically been one of the hardest holes on this course. The green is guarded by a bunker to the left and water along the right. Until the 1950s, this hole had water almost completely surrounding the green.

Clearwater

Clearwater Country Club

525 North Betty Lane
727.461.4188
clearwatercountryclub.com

The Clearwater Country Club is located in downtown Clearwater in Pinellas County. The golf course was originally designed by British golf course architect Herbert Strong. After a year of construction, in 1921, nine holes were officially opened. Mrs. Daniel Simonds, who contributed money for the new clubhouse, hit the first shot, a nice drive down the fairway beyond the first bunker. Two years later, the



Clearwater Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Clearwater Country Club)



Golfing at Clearwater Country Club, 1920s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/138768)

completed 18-hole golf course was opened and ready for play. In 1940, golf course architect Perry Maxwell and his son Press Maxwell reworked a number of the greens and holes.

The Clearwater Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 course, featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,300 to 6,200 yards that provide a test for golfers of any skill level. The course features Bermuda greens, tees, and fairways. Full practice facilities are available, as well as a fully stocked pro shop and restaurant. Clearwater Country Club strives to provide a casual and friendly atmosphere for the simple pleasures of golf, and is dedicated to offering players an experience of "Golf As It Should Be."

Your round of golf at Clearwater Country Club could be interrupted by a train! Twice a day a train rolls through the golf course along the CSX Railroad. The course is bisected by the CSX Railroad which runs through the middle of the layout. In addition, Stevenson Creek runs through the entire golf course, and comes into play on several of the 18 holes.

Dunedin

Dunedin Golf Club

1050 Palm Boulevard
727.733.7836
dunedingolfclub.com

The Dunedin Golf Club is located in the City of Dunedin in Pinellas County. In 1925, the Michigan firm of Frischkorn-Florida, headed by Ephraim S. Frischkorn, purchased 1,500 acres for the development of the Dunedin Isles Subdivision. In February of 1926, Frischkorn-Florida announced it would construct an 18-hole golf course designed by the legendary golf course architect Donald Ross. Work on the course started in 1926 when Ross and his staff visited Dunedin to look over the site. The golf course was finished ten months later, although some details remained to be completed. The course opened for play on January 1, 1927.

In 2006 and 2007 the facility went through a major restoration. Greens, tees and bunkers were rebuilt, nearly restoring the course to Donald Ross's original 1926 plans. On June 4, 2014, the Dunedin Isles Golf Club became the third golf course in Florida to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Dunedin Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring five sets of tees playing from 4,700 to 6,600 yards, making it an enjoyable golf course for all levels and abilities of golfers. In 2008, the club was named "2008 Country Club of the Year" by *Tampa Bay Magazine.* In 2014, Dunedin was voted the best golf course in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area.

In 1944, the PGA of America signed a lease with the City of Dunedin to turn the city golf course into the PGA National Golf Club. With that distinction, the golf course hosted 18 Senior Tour Championships, and the beginning of the Senior PGA Tour. In 1956, the PGA of America moved its national headquarters from Chicago to Dunedin, where it stayed for nine years before moving to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

The PGA Merchandise Show, now the world's largest and most influential golf business event, grew from humble beginnings in Dunedin. In 1954, a handful of golf merchandisers assembled in the PGA National Golf Club parking lot during a series of winter tournaments. By 1957, it became so large, with nearly 50 manufacturers' representatives, that PGA officials leased a tent to house the growing event. Today, the PGA Merchandise Show has become a global gathering. Held annually in Orlando, the marketplace occupies nearly 10 miles of aisles, featuring more than 1,000 companies, and over 40,000 PGA Professionals, buyers and industry leaders from 81 countries.



Side-by-side historic and contemporary images of Dunedin Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Dunedin Golf Club)



Vinoy Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Vinoy Golf Club)

St. Petersburg

Vinoy Golf Club

600 Snell Isle Boulevard NE
863.314.5919
vinoyclub.com

The Vinoy Golf Club is located in the City of St. Petersburg in Pinellas County. In 1920, St. Petersburg developer, C. Perry Snell officially opened a 9-hole golf course called the "Coffee Pot Golf Club." C.D. Remington was the golf professional and caddies were available for 60 cents per nine holes or $1.00 for 18. A year later Snell had added another nine holes along with a "Driving Fairway" for practice and a "Driving Net "practice area. Over the years, Snell added two other nine hole additions and at one point there were two 18-hole golf courses.

The Vinoy Hotel began with a party, a bet, and a game of golf in 1923. At his St. Petersburg Beach Drive home, Aymer Vinoy Laughner, a wealthy Pennsylvania businessman, and famed golfer Walter Hagen made a wager. Hagen drove several golf balls off the face of his host's prized pocket watch. The wager: whether the watch's crystal would survive Hagen's powerful drive. It did, and the golf balls landed across Beach Drive on a residential waterfront property. Laughner's party guests suggested he purchase the property and build a grand resort – one that would carry his name. Laughner purchased the land for $170,000. Led by architect Henry L. Taylor and contractor George A. Miller, construction for the Vinoy Park Hotel began on February 5, 1925. The contractor set a construction record, completing the 375-room hotel in just under 10 months, in time for a grand opening on New Year's Eve 1925.

In 1932, D.L. Clark, of candy bar fame, purchased the Coffee Pot Golf Course on Snell Island for $156,000 and renamed it Clarks' Sunset Golf and Country Club. In 1948, the Sunset Golf Course was purchased by the Alsonett Corporation, which owned the Vinoy, Soreno and Tides Hotels. Florida-based golf course architect Ron Garl redesigned the course in 1992.

The Vinoy Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course featuring six sets of tees ranging from 4,800 to

Stiles & Van Kleek – The Florida Office



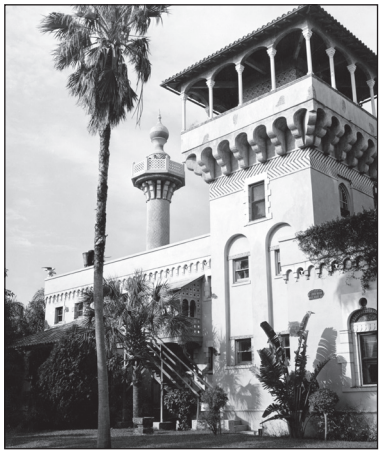
John Van Kleek in his office at the Port Paradise Hotel, Crystal River, Florida, 1956.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/73851)

From 1925 to 1927, the St. Petersburg, Florida office of Stiles & Van Kleek was as busy as any golf design firm in the country. Located at 211 Taylor Arcade, near today's Pinellas Park, the office employed up to ten people as designers, engineers, landscape architects and administrative personnel. Bruce Matthews was the head construction superintendent and Butler Sturtevant the lead designer; both men went on to distinguished careers in their respective fields.

John Van Kleek was already stationed in Florida when he partnered with Wayne Stiles. Van Kleek had been working for A. D. Taylor, an established Cleveland landscape architect, on his Florida projects, including 'Rio Vista on the Halifax' a new town between Daytona and Ormond. In addition he was planning sub-divisions and private estates along Florida's East Coast.

Shortly after partnering with Stiles in 1924, Van Kleek reported to the Cornell Alumni Association: "We are designing and building 20 golf courses in the north, west and Florida. We are also designing two new towns in Florida: Oldsmar and Davenport." The firm's move to St. Petersburg allowed Van Kleek to branch out and seek jobs throughout the South. From a modest start in Georgia in 1925, he pursued jobs in North Carolina, Alabama, Texas and Mississippi.

Central Region



Sunset Golf and Country Club, 1947.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/67469)

6,500 yards making it very playable for all golf skill levels. The golf course is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Each hole is surrounded by diverse vegetation including over a dozen varieties of palm - over 900 in all - from around the world. Amidst the palms, the pines and the live oaks, players may find themselves lost in the jungle, or beached on one of the 63 bunkers strategically placed along the way. Located 1.7 miles from the Vinoy Hotel, a complimentary shuttle service to and from the Club is provided by the resort for its guests. A 1927 Mediterranean-inspired clubhouse overlooking the golf course houses a restaurant, bar and fully stocked pro shop.

The Hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been named one of the "500 Greatest Hotels and Resorts in the World" by *Travel & Leisure* magazine. Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine have ranked The Vinoy as one of the "Best Places to Stay in the Whole Wide World." Please note: To enjoy play at the Vinoy Golf Club, you must be a member or a registered guest at the Vinoy Hotel.

The Vinoy offers players an alternative to walking the course, or riding in a golf cart, with the Golf Bike. Produced by the Higher Ground Bicycle Co. in Tallahassee, Florida, the Golf Bike was presented in the Inventor's Spotlight at the 2013 PGA show in Orlando. In March of 2014, the first Golf Bikes were delivered to The Vinoy Renaissance Golf Resort. Riding a bicycle on a golf course is not a modern idea. As early as 1920, one of the world's richest men, John D. Rockefeller, would ride a bike while playing golf. Rockefeller, who wintered in Ormond Beach, on Florida's Atlantic Coast, had a passion for golf and believed that the game was good for his health.



"Fairway Brand" and "Golf Brand" Citrus Crate Labels, Patterson Packing Company, Lakeland, Florida, 1920s-1930s.
(Images courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)

The boom that characterized Florida development in the early 1920s was followed by a bust just as spectacular in the later part of the decade. When a hurricane hit Miami on September 18, 1926, bringing 128 mph winds and a foot of rain, more than 13,000 homes were destroyed or damaged, and 113 people died. Facing the enormous loss of property and the possibility of future hurricanes, the bottom fell out of the Florida real estate market.

Although the Stiles & Van Kleek staff was reduced as these multiple calamities befell the region, by 1931 more than 60 projects were underway. Some never got past the planning stage, and many others were halted for lack of funds, but as many as 25 made it to completion. Of those, only a half dozen remain today.

Existing golf courses in Florida that were designed or redesigned by Stiles and Van Kleek include the Clewiston Golf Course, Clewiston; **Lekarica Hills Golf Course,** Lake Wales; Pasadena Yacht and Country Club, Gulfport; **Vinoy Golf Club**, St. Petersburg; **Tarpon Springs Golf Course,** Tarpon Springs; and the Country Club of Winter Haven, Winter Haven. (Golf courses in bold are partner courses on the Florida Historic Golf Trail.)



Wayne Stiles.
(Image courtesy of the Wayne Stiles Society)



Aerial view of Tarpon Springs Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Tarpon Springs Golf Course)

Tarpon Springs

Tarpon Springs Golf Course

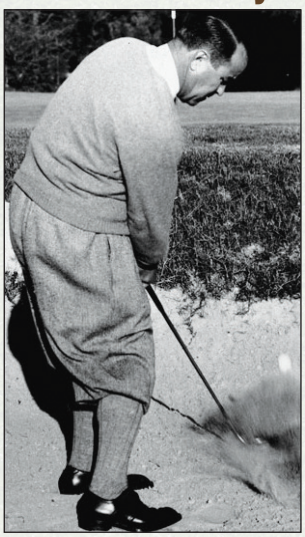
1310 South Pinellas Avenue
727.934.5191
tarponspringsgc.com

The Tarpon Springs Golf Course is located in the City of Tarpon Springs in Pinellas County. In 1912, a golf club was organized and golf links were soon under construction. The city hired W.D. Leith, originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, to supervise the work of putting the finishing touches on the golf course. Leith was the golf professional at the Northland Country Club in Duluth, Minnesota and a number of Duluth residents owned property in Tarpon Springs.

In 1926, the golf course architectural firm of Wayne Stiles & John R. Van Kleek completely rebuilt the existing 9-hole course and added nine more holes. At a cost of $17,600, the new 18-hole municipal golf course featured large greens, several ponds and a number of dog-leg holes. The course was redesigned in 1957 by golf course architect Mark Mahannah.

The City of Tarpon Springs announced the Grand Re-Opening of its Municipal Golf Course on Saturday, September 20, 2014. The course had been closed since

Gene Sarazen, New Port Richey and the Sand Wedge



Gene Sarazen and his sand wedge,1930s.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

The son of an Italian carpenter from Rome, Eugenio Saraceni was born in Harrison, New York in 1902, and went on to become one of the greatest golfers ever known. Eugenio "Gene" was introduced to golf at an early age as he caddied to help provide income for his family. He was mostly self-taught when he turned professional at age 17, and changed his last name to Sarazen. He was known as "The Squire" for his stylish wardrobe and courtly manners.

Sarazen's career was nothing short of remarkable. He won seven professional Majors; the PGA Championship in 1922, 1923, 1933; the U.S. Open in 1922, 1932; the Open Championship (British) in 1932; and the Masters Tournament in 1935. He is one of only five golfers (along with Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods) to win all the major championships in his career, known today as the Career Grand Slam. Sarazen had 31 PGA TOUR wins, competed in six Ryder Cups (1927, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, and 1937) and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974.

In 1929, Gene Sarazen was the golf professional at Jasmin Point Golf Club in New Port Richey, Florida where he helped develop and open the course. Local developers George Sims, Warren Burns and James Becker of the Burns-Becker Corporation recruited Sarazen to oversee the installation of the $300,000 Stiles & Van Kleek layout at the Jasmin Point subdivision. Sarazen built a two-story, Spanish-style home on nearby River Road North and set out to interest young and old in playing golf at Jasmin Point.

The golf course ran along Avery Road and what is now U.S.19,

the previous June 2nd for a complete renovation and reconstruction of all 18 greens plus two practice greens and other improvements. The new greens feature refreshed contours, Seashore Paspalum turf, re-sanded bunkers and renovated tees.

The 18-hole, par-72 Tarpon Springs Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,200 yards. As with many of the courses designed at that time, Tarpon Springs features many doglegs that make it play longer than the actual length, and small elevated greens. The course is owned and operated by the City of Tarpon Springs for the golfing enjoyment of the public. Golf legend Gene Sarazen had a home in nearby New Port Richey and was a regular player on the Tarpon Springs links in the 1930s.

Polk County

Bartow

Bartow Golf Course

150 Idlewood Avenue
863.533.9183
cityofbartow.net

The Bartow Golf Course is located in the City of Bartow in Polk County. In 1919, Tampa engineer Harry Knight was awarded the contract to build Bartow's golf course on land that had been a dairy farm. Charles Howe was selected as Bartow's first golf professional. In 1925, the citizens of Bartow approved a bond of $50,000 for



Bartow Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Bartow Golf Course)

the purchase of the holdings of the Bartow Golf Club and 100 acres adjoining the club, on which to construct an additional 9-holes. That same year, an exhibition golf match was held on the course that included the reigning U.S. Open champion Cyril Walker, who was wintering in Winter Haven. The new 18-hole golf course was officially opened on the morning of December 4, 1926, when Bartow's city manager struck his tee shot nearly 200 yards off the first tee.

The 18-hole, par-72 Bartow Golf Course features five sets of tees playing from 5,300 to 6,600 yards. Known locally as "The Tow" the course is not extremely long, but locals say it is harder than it looks. The longest hole on the course is the 9th, a par-5 that plays to 595 yards. The greens are small, and water hazards come into play on seven holes, including number 18, a 428-yard, par-4, which features a small pond sitting in front of the well-bunkered green.

with plans to route 18 holes from Orange Lake to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. On February 18, 1927, the *New Port Richey Press* reported, "The topography of the country secured by the Burns-Becker Corporation for their latest development project is considered ideally suited from the standpoint of golf architecture. Many of the hazards have been provided by nature, the course skirting a pretty assortment of bayous and small lakes. The clubhouse, according to plans, will front on the river and the last hole will be approached from the west, so that homecoming golfers will have played from the river to the gulf and back to the river again." Once cleared of brush, the first nine holes were planted in Italian Rye and Bermuda grasses.

Sarazen developed his legendary sand wedge while at Jasmin Point. He soldered and adjusted the club at the Scofield-Huddleston Garage at the corner of Grand and Gulf Boulevards; and tested it in the bunkers of the Stiles & Van Kleek layout. Writing in his autobiography, *Thirty Years of Championship Golf,* Sarazen noted that the course had "one excellent trap, right behind my house. It was there that I tried out my sand-iron hitting thousands of shots each week, making adjustments back



Jasmin Point Golf Club, New Port Richey, ca. 1940.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/6113)

in the machine shop, testing the improvements until I had the sand-iron perfected. Through trial and error I learned that shots with the sand-iron had to be executed with a stroke different from the orthodox golf stroke. By the spring of 1932, I had supreme confidence in my sand-iron." With the revolutionary weapon in his bag Sarazen won the 1932 U.S. and British Opens, and the club was universally accepted by golfers at every level.

With the impact of the Depression on Florida's economy, the Jasmin Point Club never realized its potential and the back nine was never opened. Sarazen sold his home in 1934, and a small pond is the only trace of the course that played a major part in the development of modern golf equipment.

Lakeland

Cleveland Heights Golf Course

2900 Buckingham Avenue
863.834.4653
clevelandheightsgolf.com

The Cleveland Heights Golf Course is located in the City of Lakeland in Polk County amid the hills bordering Lake Hollingsworth. Cleveland Heights was the focal point of an exclusive golf course community built by developer H.A. Stahl, who named the project after his hometown. With a swank $1 million clubhouse, Cleveland Heights Golf Course opened in 1925 with all the flair of an elite country club during the Roaring '20s.

The golf course was designed by the golf course architectural firm of Howard Toomey & William Flynn. Under the personal supervision of William Flynn, the course was described to be as long and difficult as most of the northern links. In the early years, members met at the clubhouse on Lake Hollingsworth and were driven to the Locker House on Buckingham Avenue to meet caddies. The caddie shack stood at the northwest corner of the new clubhouse complex.

Due to the Great Depression, financial difficulties struck and Stahl lost his investment. The City of Lakeland took over the golf course by the end of the 1930s. The clubhouse on Lake Hollingsworth was purchased by the Lakeland Yacht & Country Club in the mid-1950s and a new clubhouse for the golf course was built on Buckingham Avenue. Over the years, the pro shop and clubhouse complex on Buckingham was remodeled numerous times, from the one-story, flat-roofed pro shop of the 1940s and 1950s to today's $1.5 million Spanish-Mediterranean clubhouse complex. In the early 1980s, general manager Reuben Gibson supervised the addition of the third nine holes, which expanded the course to the 27 holes in play today.



Historic postcard view of Cleveland Heights Golf Course, Lakeland.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://floridamemory.com/items/show/159760)

The Cleveland Heights Golf Course is a 27-hole golf complex consisting of three 9-hole courses that are played in 18-hole combinations (A/B, A/C, or B/C). Each 9-hole course features three sets of tees playing from 2,600 to 3,200 yards and the 18-hole combinations play from 5,300 to 6,400 yards. The "A" Course has the most open fairways, the "B" Course is more challenging than the other two, and the "C" Course has the most length. Known locally as the "Heights," the facility is run by the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Lakeland, and offers golfers of all abilities the opportunity to enjoy the sport.

Sixteen of the original 18 holes from Toomey & Flynn design are still in use today. Portions of the old front nine consist of seven current holes from the A Course - starting with hole numbers A-1 (old 1st), A-2 (2nd), A-3 (3rd), A-6 (4th), A-7 (5th), A-8 (6th), and A-9 (9th). The original 7th and 8th holes were located north of East Edgewood Drive in what is now Veterans Park. The historic back nine begins on the B Course with hole numbers 1 (10th), 2 (11th), 7 (12th), 8 (13th), 9 (14th), and finishes up with the C Course hole numbers 1 (15th), 7 (16th), 8 (17th), and 9 (18th).



Cleveland Heights Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Cleveland Heights Golf Course)



Golfers at the Carpenters Home Golf Course (now Wedgewood Golf Club), 1936.
(Image courtesy of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)

Wedgewood Golf Club

401 Carpenters Way
863.858.4451
golfwedgewood.com



Wedgewood Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Wedgewood Golf Club)

The Wedgewood Golf Club is located in the City of Lakeland in Polk County. The Club is located on the former site of the National Home of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. The main building, which is still on site, was a retirement home for members of the Brotherhood. Built between 1926 and 1929 at a cost of $1 million, the facility was home to 400 retired carpenters. Construction of the golf course began in 1929. The golf course officially opened on January 1, 1931 with Charles W. Howe as the professional in charge.

In 1958, a newspaper article reported that the Detroit Tigers baseball team would be training in Lakeland that spring and over 50 of them were golfers! Over the years, the golf course known today as the Wedgewood Golf Club, had several names including: the Carpenter's Home Golf Course, the William L. Hutcheson Golf Course and the Lake Gibson Golf & Country Estates. In 1983, the course reopened after a year's worth of redesign by Lakeland golf course architect Ron Garl. The renovation project included building five new holes and revamping 13 of the existing holes.

The Wedgewood Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-70 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 4,800 to 6,400 yards. The layout has plenty of sand, water and trees and creates a terrific challenge for golfers of all ages and skill levels. Surrounding the course are views of Lake Gibson and the Carpenters Home Church. Water features, rolling fairways, huge undulating Bermuda greens and strategically placed bunkers round out Wedgewood's unique design features.

Navigating around the fairway bunkers on the 403 yard, par-4 fifth hole is the number one priority on this number one handicap hole. The undulated green is protected by a water hazard that swallows thousands of balls a year. Make par and go to the next hole.

Lake Wales

Lake Wales Country Club

2925 Highway 60 East
863.676.2422
lakewalescc.com

The Lake Wales Country Club is located in the City of Lake Wales in Polk County. In 1924, the City of Lake Wales approved a special $190,000 bond which included $55,000 for the construction of a municipal golf course. The city acquired the services of one of America's most renowned golf course architects, Seth Raynor, who had designed the nearby



Golfers at the Lake Wales Country Club, ca. 1950s.
(Image courtesy of the Lake Wales Museum & Cultural Center)



Lake Wales Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Lake Wales Country Club)

Mountain Lake golf course. Construction began in 1924 and later that year Mr. and Mrs. H.P. Mills of Mountain Lake presented the city of Lake Wales with a complete set of pin flags for the entire 18 holes.

On January 27, 1925, Lake Wales Mayor L.H. Kramer declared a holiday for the formal opening of the golf course. Over 1,000 people watched a match between golf professionals Alick Girard of Mountain Lake and Jimmy Maiden of Sebring, who played against Dave Towns, the newly hired Lake Wales golf professional originally from St. Andrews, Scotland, and his brother Allan Towns of the North Park Country Club in Long Island. Only nine holes were opened for play that year. The other nine holes, which had been laid out by Raynor, were constructed and completed a year later.

The Lake Wales Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-71/72 golf course featuring seven sets of tees playing from 4,200 to 7,000 yards. Lake Wales Country Club offers classic golf and outstanding conditioning that present a challenge to players of all levels. This course may be the only municipal golf course Seth Raynor ever designed. The course still follows most of the historic routing by Raynor.

Lekarica Hills Golf Course

1650 South Highland Park Drive
863.679.9478
lekarica.com

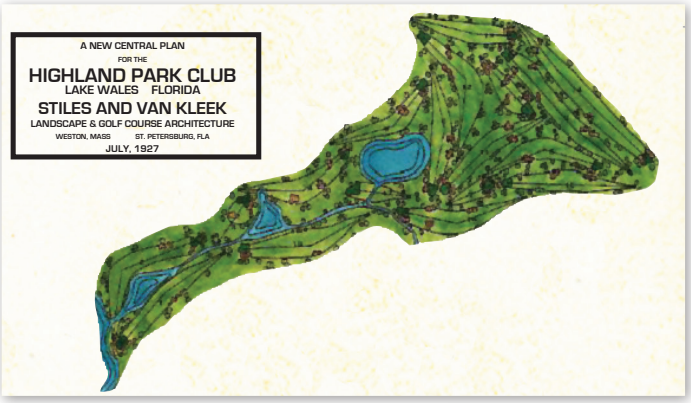
The Lekarica Hills Golf Course is located in the Village of Highland Park, just south of Lake Wales, in Polk County. A 9-hole golf course existed on the property for several years in the early 1920s. The course was poorly designed and frequently flooded. In 1927, the Boston golf course architectural firm Stiles & Van Kleek were hired to design an 18-hole golf course. Named the Highland Park Club, Stiles & Van Kleek rebuilt and incorporated five of the old holes into the new design. Several of the new holes were laid out in an orange grove on higher ground.

During World War II, a labor shortage resulted in six holes being removed and replaced with orange trees. The Highland Park Club remained a 12-hole layout until the 1990s, when the golf course was bought and restored back to its 18-hole configuration. The current name, Lekarica, is said to be derived from the names of a past owner's children; Lesley, Kara and Eric.



Golfers at Highland Park Club (now Lekarica Hills Golf Course), 1939.
(Image courtesy of the Lake Wales Public Library)

The Lekarica Hills Golf Course features three sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,100 yards. The scenic, rolling hills of the Lake Wales Ridge provide the setting for the beautiful links of the Lekarica Hills. With elevation changes of more than 110 feet from top to bottom, there are interesting features to challenge any golfer's game. A local rule on the 1933 scorecard for Highland Park indicated that players could drop their ball without penalty if it was in wagon tracks.



Plan for the Highland Park Club (now Lekarica Hills Golf Course), 1927.
(Image courtesy of the Lekarica Hills Golf Course)

Bobby Jones in Sarasota



Bobby Jones with his championship trophy from the1923 U.S. Open.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

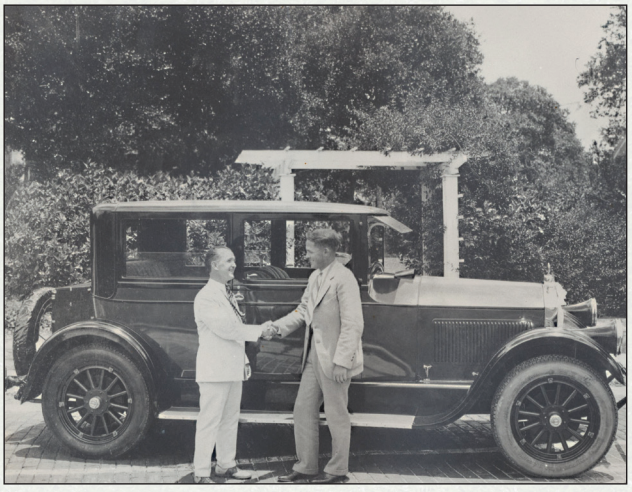
Between 1925 and 1927, golfer Bobby Jones enjoyed life in Sarasota for three memorable winters. Bobby Jones arrived in Sarasota to work as real estate sales manager at the invitation of his friend, Atlanta businessman and developer, Perry Adair. Adair had retained the services of the most respected golf course architect of the time, Donald J. Ross, to design a premier course in Sarasota with the flavor of his 1907 masterpiece, Pinehurst #2 golf course, the centerpiece of Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina. Besides Jones, the "sales team" included top amateur and professional golfers Tommy "The Silver Scot" Armour, "Long Jim" Barnes, Johnny "The Gentleman" Farrell and Arnaud Massy.

In March 1925, Bobby Jones accompanied golf architect Donald Ross as he walked the property to select the golf course site, and on January 22, 1926, Whitfield Estates Country Club officially opened, with an exhibition match pairing Bobby Jones and Tommy Armour versus Jim Barnes and Johnny Farrell. Matches and competitions followed between the four on the new course, and also included players Gene Sarazen, Leo Diegel, Walter "The Haig" Hagen and Gil Nichols.

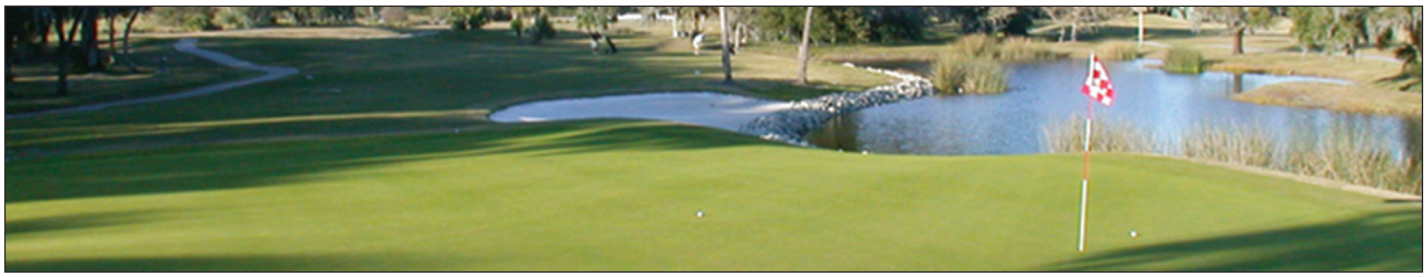
On February 28, 1926, the legendary "Match of the Century," a 72-hole match between Bobby Jones, the greatest amateur, and the top professional golfer, Walter Hagen, began in Sarasota. The first 36 holes were played at Jones' home course, Whitfield Estates Country Club, now known as Sara Bay Country Club. The second 36 holes were played in March at Hagen's course, the Pasadena Golf Club in Gulfport, Florida, now known as Pasadena Yacht and Country Club. Hagen would go on to win the match, 12 and 11.

The *Sarasota Herald* closely followed Bobby Jones' successes in the British and U.S. Open Tournaments in 1926. When Jones became the first American amateur golfer to win the British Open, the newspaper claimed "Sarasota's Own Wins Title." As a winter resident of Sarasota, the paper said he "brought added honors to the city and to himself when he won the title." Community leaders presented Jones with a 1926 Pierce-Arrow sedan in a ceremony at McAnsh Park. The paper reported that area mayors George B. Wallace of Bradenton, Wilbur E. Mann of Palmetto and Everett J. Bacon of Sarasota "paid homage to Bobby" during the presentation.

After the City of Sarasota commissioned Donald Ross to design its Municipal Golf Course in 1925, it was Bobby Jones who headlined the dedication match on February 13, 1927 before a gallery of 1,500 spectators. On the eve of the big match, a party was held in the Mira Mar Hotel by Sarasota's leading citizens and it was decided to name the course after Bobby Jones. In 1982, Bobby Jones Golf Club named its four championship nines after the courses where Jones won his 1930 Grand Slam: the Interlachen (U.S. Open), Merion (U.S. Amateur), Hoylake (British Open), and St. Andrews (British Amateur).
In 1994, the relationship between Bobby Jones and Sarasota was officially memorialized by the Sarasota County Historical Society with the dedication of a bronze marker that stands at Bobby Jones Golf Club today.



Bobby Jones (right) receiving a Pierce Arrow sedan in appreciation for making Sarasota his winter golfing home, 1926.
(Image courtesy of the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources)



Bobby Jones Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Bobby Jones Golf Club)

Sarasota County

Sarasota

Bobby Jones Golf Club

1000 Circus Boulevard
941.365.4653
bobbyjonesgolfclub.com

The Bobby Jones Golf Club is located in the City of Sarasota in Sarasota County. Sarasota is known as "The Cradle of American Golf" thanks to the contributions of Scottish-born Colonel John Hamilton Gillespie. In 1886, Gillespie arrived in Sarasota and built a practice course consisting of two greens and one long fairway between what is now Main Street and Ringling Boulevard. That course is one of the oldest recorded golf courses in the nation. By 1888 the number of golf holes increased to four and a practice range was added to the mix. By 1901 the 4 hole course increased to nine holes and a clubhouse, and by 1906 a full 18-hole course was in operation. A year after Gillespie's death in 1923, the golf course was sold and developed.

The Sarasota City Commission adopted an ordinance in 1925 for the issuance of city bonds in the amount of $150,000. The ordinance was intended to acquire 290 acres of land for park purposes, and improvements to that land for a municipal golf course. Renowned golf course architect Donald Ross was hired to design the 18-hole layout and in 1926, the Sarasota Municipal Golf Course was officially opened. In 1927, the City renamed the municipal course the Bobby Jones Golf Club. A crowd of over 1,000 gathered to watch Bobby Jones personally dedicate the course and play in an exhibition game where he went on to shoot a 73.

Nine holes were added in 1952 and another nine in 1967. The original Donald Ross course was split in half, with nine holes contributing to the North 18-hole layout and nine holes contributing to the South 18-hole layout. The resulting North eighteen holes were designated the American Course and the South eighteen designated the British Course. In 1977, a 9-hole, executive course named in honor of Col. John Hamilton Gillespie, was designed by Lane Marshall and added to the Bobby Jones Golf Club.

In 1930, Bobby Jones accomplished one of the most amazing feats in sports history, the Grand Slam of Golf. In honor of these championships the American Course honors Jones' championships in the U.S. Amateur at Merion and the U.S. Open at Interlachen. The British Course front nine is named for his British Amateur victory at St. Andrews and the back nine for his British Open success at Hoylake. Jones is the only golfer to have won all of these major championships in the same year.

The Bobby Jones Golf Club is a 45-hole golf complex consisting of two 18-hole golf courses and a 9-hole, par-30 executive course. The 18-hole, par-71, American Course features four sets of tees playing from 4,300 to 6,000 yards and is a shotmaker's course with water and trees frequently coming into play. There are also many out-of-bounds stakes lining the fairways. The 18-hole, par-72, British Course features four sets of tees playing from 5,200 to 6,500 yards. The British Course is more open and includes plenty of sand bunkers. To play all 18 holes of the original Donald Ross golf course, golfers have to play the back nine of both the American and British courses.

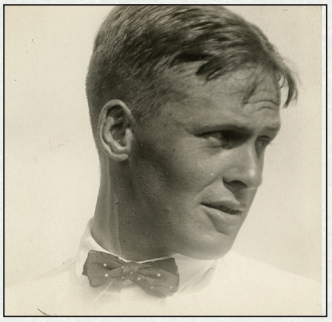
Be sure to check out the impressive Bobby Jones and Col. Gillespie display on the inside wall of the club house, along with historic photographs, trophies and hickory golf clubs. Gillespie's personal putter from the 1870s is also on display.

The short street leading into the Bobby Jones Golf Club was named Paul Azinger Way by the City of Sarasota in honor of local golf legend Paul Azinger, who attended Sarasota High School and played for Florida State University. A 12-time winner on the PGA Tour, including the 1993 PGA Championship, Azinger played on four United States Ryder Cup teams and captained the 2008 winning team.



Bobby Jones at the dedication of the Bobby Jones Golf Club, 1927.
(Image courtesy of the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources)

The Match of the Century



Bobby Jones, early 1920s.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

With the promise of quick profits, the 1920s Florida real estate boom spurred an increase in residential and subdivision development. But destructive hurricanes in 1926 and 1928, along with a shortage of raw materials, burst the real-estate bubble and pushed Florida into the Great Depression years ahead of the rest of the country. In order to boost sagging land sales during the winter months of 1925 and 1926, amateur and top professional golfers were hired to host rounds of golf with prospective home buyers.

Amateur golf star Bobby Jones was recruited by his childhood friend and playing partner Perry Adair to increase sales at Sarasota's Whitfield Estates, on a course designed by Donald Ross known today as Sara Bay Country Club. At the Wayne Stiles-designed Pasadena Golf Club in Gulfport, professional golfer Walter Hagen was hired as the club's first resident professional.

Since golf's earliest days in America, the game was dominated by the aristocratic amateurs of the United States Golf Association. They organized the first private clubs; they popularized the sport with their peers; and they dominated the game on the course itself. Golf professionals were the distinctly working class players who taught and played the game for a meager living, and had struggled for decades for social and economic equality.

Hagen, golf's reigning professional champion, challenged Jones, the nation's top amateur player, to a grand exhibition match of 36 holes on each player's home course. The *Atlanta Constitution* described it as the unofficial golf championship of the U.S., and the match drew huge crowds that helped both struggling real estate developments.

By the time Jones and Hagen met on the first tee at Whitfield Estates on February 28, 1926, the golfing world was ready. It was a decisive showdown, a competition amongst the social classes that would help define the future of the sport by determining which side produced the better players. Hagen won the match 12 and 11, and established new scoring records at both Whitfield Estates and Pasadena.

Conceived in response to the Florida land bust, the Match of the Century represented a turning point in the sport. Hagen's victory foreshadowed the rapid rise of the professional player who would transform golf into an international industry.



WALTER HAGEN DEFEATS BOBBY JONES, 12 AND 11

PROFESSIONAL CHAMP MAINTAINS HIS LEAD IN FINALS, PASADENA

Boston Braves and New York Yanks Open Series Tuesday

Amateur Champ Loses to Hagen

HANDICAP GOLF TOURNEY WILL BE HELD HERE

SEVEN GRADE SCHOOLS FOR BALL LEAGUE

TWO CONTESTS TO BE PLAYED DURING WEEK

PECK TACKLES ROSS IN MAIN BOUT TUESDAY

STAR PREFERS TO WORK PEN

Article on the Hagen and Jones match, *St. Petersburg Times,* March 8, 1926.
(Image courtesy of the St. Petersburg Public Library System)

Bobby Jones (left) and Walter Hagen (right) with referee at the 1926 "Match of the Century."
(Image courtesy of Friends of Bobby Jones Golf Club)

Central Region



Mayfair Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Mayfair Country Club)

Seminole County
Sanford

Mayfair Country Club
3536 Country Club Road
407.322.2531
mayfairgolf.com

The Mayfair Country Club is located in the City of Sanford in Seminole County. The golf course sits on land that was part of a 20,000 acre tract purchased in 1870 by Henry Sanford and sold in 1878 to Charles Amory. Amory, a retired sea captain, cleared much of the land and planted citrus trees and the double row of oak trees that still line the main entrance of the golf course. He built the ship-shaped house, which remains a part of today's Mayfair clubhouse. Early in 1922, a 50-man crew began to build a golf course. That same year, with nine holes completed, the Sanford Country Club golf course officially opened for play.

The Mayfair Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-70 golf course featuring four sets of tees ranging from 5,000 to 6,400 yards, perfect for novice players and experts alike. The course is guaranteed to challenge all players with the strategic layout and the clever positioning of hazards and trees. The fairways tend to be wider (as is typical of classic course designs); however, the approaches are forgiving enough to ensure that all players will feel competitive as they navigate these grounds. Water comes into play on more than half of the 18 holes.

In 1927, the Sanford Golf Course was host to a match between golfing legends Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen. However, it was not to be Sarazen's day. On the sixth hole, a member of the gallery stepped on Sarazen's ball which buried it in the ground and he was forced to take a five. On the thirteenth hole, Sarazen's tee shot struck a spectator on the head and the ball bounced 30 yards into a trap. Hagen beat Sarazen five and four.

Other Historic Golf Courses in this Region



Country Club of Winter Haven.
(Image courtesy of the Country Club of Winter Haven)



Pasadena Yacht & Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club)

Brevard County
Rockledge

Rockledge Country Club (private)
1591 South Fiske Boulevard
321.636.6022
rockledgecc.com

Hillsborough County
Tampa

Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club (private)
1601 South MacDill Avenue
813.253.3101
pcgc.org

Indian River County
Vero Beach

Riomar Country Club (private)
2106 Club Drive
772.231.6426
riomarcountryclub.com

Vero Beach Country Club (private)
800 30th Street
772.567.3320
vbcountryclub.com

Manatee County
Bradenton

Bradenton Country Club (private)
4646 Ninth Avenue West
941.792.1600
bradentoncc.org

Central Region

Other Historic Golf Courses in this Region



Riomar Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Riomar Country Club)



Rockledge Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Rockledge Country Club)



St. Petersburg Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the St. Petersburg Country Club)

Orange County

Orlando

Country Club of Orlando (private)
1601 Country Club Drive
407.849.0990
countrycluboforlando.com

Pinellas County

Belleair

Belleair Country Club – East Course (private)
1 Country Club Lane
727.461.7171
belleaircc.com

Belleair Country Club – West Course (private)
1 Country Club Lane
727.461.7171
belleaircc.com

Gulfport

Pasadena Yacht & Country Club (private)
6300 Pasadena Point Boulevard
727.381.7922
pyccgolf.com

St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Country Club (private)
2000 Country Club Way South
727.867.2111
stpetecountryclub.com

Polk County

Lake Wales

Mountain Lake (private)
2300 North Scenic Highway
863.676.5900
mountainlakecc.com

Winter Haven

Country Club of Winter Haven (private)
4200 Country Club Road South
863.324.6666
ccofwinterhaven.com

Sarasota County

Sarasota

Sara Bay Country Club (private)
7011 Willow Street
941.355.7658
sarabaycc.org

St. Lucie County

Fort Pierce

Indian Hills Country Club (public)
1600 South Third Street
772.465.8110
indianhillsftpierce.com

"In order to win, you must play your best golf when you need it most, and play your sloppy stuff when you can afford it. I shall not attempt to explain how you achieve this happy timing."

– Bobby Jones

Florida Historic Golf Trail



Northwest Region

(Pages 6-12)

Escambia County
Pensacola
1 A.C. Read Golf Course
2 Osceola Municipal Golf Course

Jackson County
Marianna
3 Florida Caverns Golf Course

Leon County
Tallahassee
4 Capital City Country Club

Okaloosa County
Niceville
5 Eglin Golf Course

Walton County
DeFuniak Springs
6 DeFuniak Springs Country Club

Northeast Region

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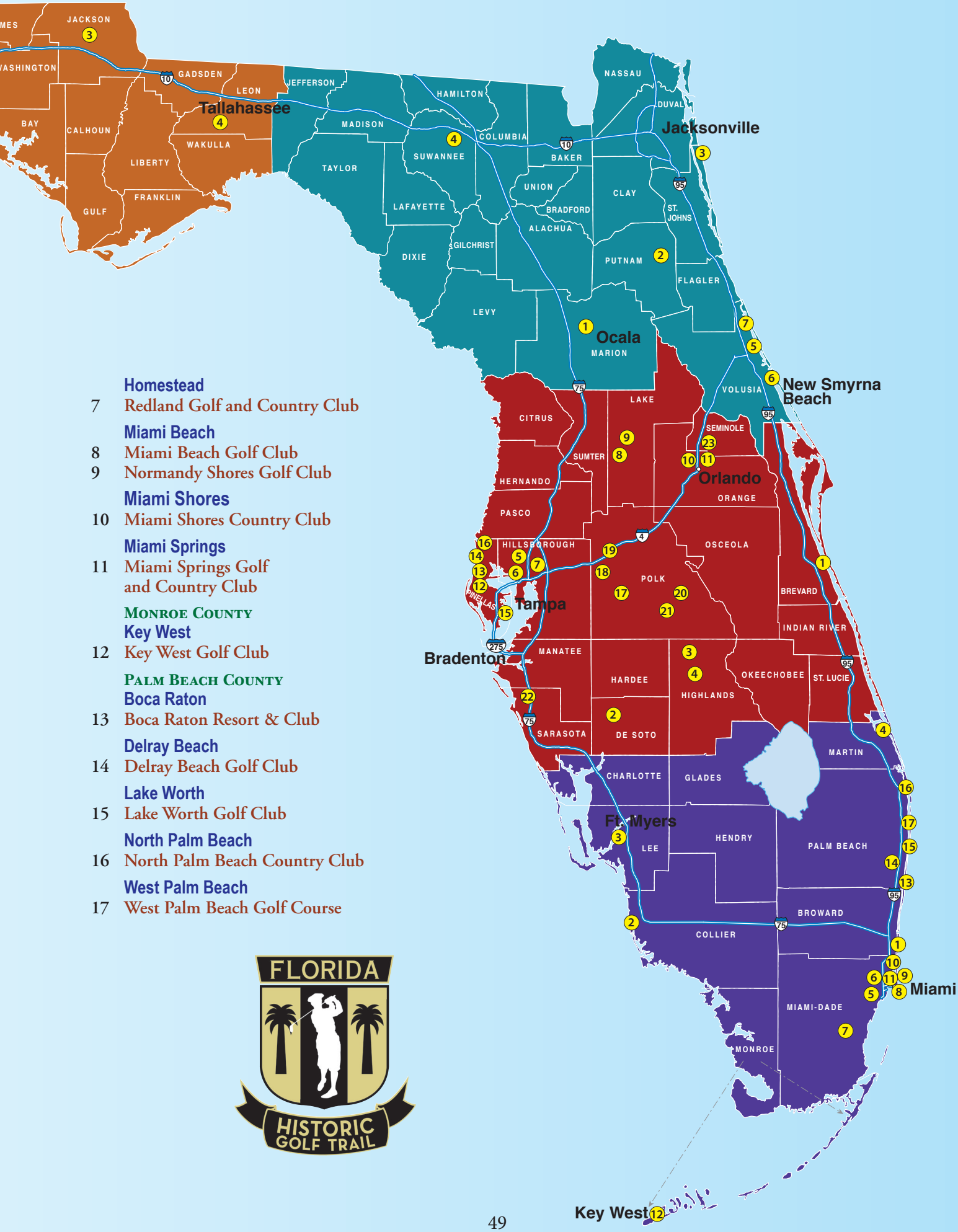
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FLORIDA HISTORIC GOLF TRAIL

African American Players in Florida Golf History

When golf began in the United States and Florida, it was a segregated sport enjoyed by the wealthy. Most golf clubs did not allow African Americans as members or players on the course. However, black men often worked at the clubs as caddies, and some clubs allowed these caddies to play one day a week. In Florida, many black players contributed to the development of golf and became champions of the game, despite the challenges and obstacles facing them.



African American caddies at Gasparilla Inn, Boca Grande, ca. 1923.
(Image courtesy of the Robert Buerkle Collection)

On his way from South Carolina to Cuba to establish a business in 1900, **Leonard Reid** stopped in Sarasota and was introduced to Colonel J. Hamilton Gillespie. Before long, Reid was working for Gillespie in many capacities, and became his constant companion and close confidante. In 1901, it was Reid who worked with Gillespie to sketch out a nine-hole golf course, later serving as greens keeper and caddy for the early course in what is now downtown Sarasota.



Tampa Negro Golf Champ To Seek World's Title

Sanders S. Mason, five times negro golf champion of Tampa, yesterday announced that he will enter the world's negro golf championship tournament at Boston on Sept. 13. Sanders plans to leave for Boston on Sept. 1.

He said he had been breaking 70 in recent practice rounds. According to Mason, he fears opposition from only one player—Jack Hurdon, of New York. Hurdon defeated him in the finals for the state championship at Jacksonville last year, 1 up, he said.

Newspaper article about African American golfer Sanders S. Mason of Tampa, *Tampa Tribune,* July 26, 1930.
(Image courtesy of Scott Edwards, Florida Division of Historical Resources)

In 1925, the United Golf Association (UGA) was founded by a group of African American golfers who scheduled a series of tournaments for blacks that included stops in Tampa and Miami. Famous African American golfers like Ted Rhodes, Lee Elder and Charlie Sifford participated. The UGA disbanded in the early 1960s after the Professional Golfers Association of America (PGA) removed its Caucasians-only clause.

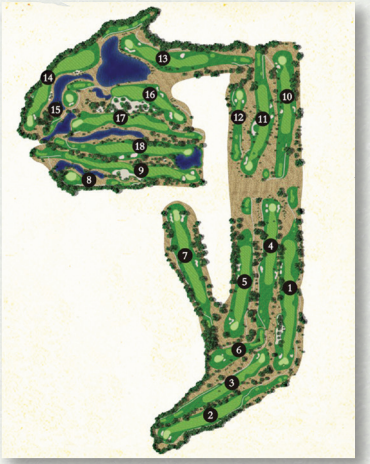


Rogers Park Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Rogers Park Golf Course)

In the late 1920s and 1930s, Tampa had a thriving African American golf scene. A majority of the players were caddies at various clubs. **Sanders S. Mason** was one of Tampa's best black golfers, winning the city championship for many years. Mason was also the president of the Tampa Negro Golf Association and entered the World Negro Golf Championship in Boston, Massachusetts in 1930.

Ralph Dawkins, Sr. of Jacksonville pursued a career in golf after winning a state junior golf tournament in 1928. Dawkins learned to play as a caddie at the Florida Country Club in Jacksonville and regularly competed in African American golf tournaments throughout the southeast. In 1941, Dawkins participated in the UGA National Open Championship and became the teaching professional at the black-owned and operated Lincoln Golf and Country Club in Jacksonville.

During the segregation era, the property that is now home to **Rogers Park Golf Course** was the only park open to Tampa's African American community. Rogers Park Golf Course opened in 1952 after Mayor Curtis Hixon had given a group of caddies from Palma Ceia Country Club permission to build a nine-hole golf course in the park. Willie Black, the course's first head golf professional, directed volunteers who removed the trees and shaped the land for the course all by hand, without benefit of heavy equipment. In November



Map of the Rogers Park Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Rogers Park Golf Course)

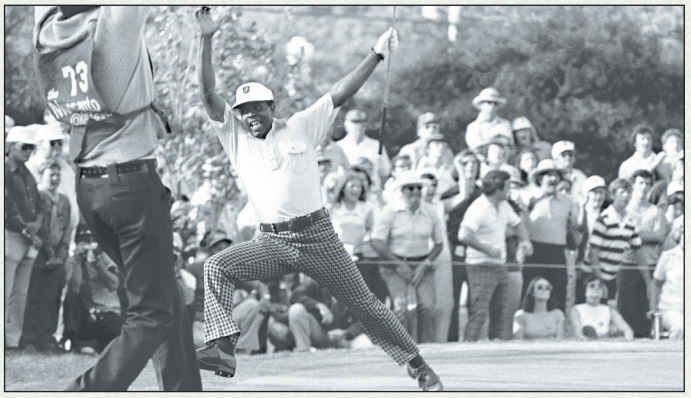


Althea Gibson on the golf course.
(Image courtesy of the Cable News Network)

2014, the original Rogers Park Golf Course site became the fourth golf course in Florida to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

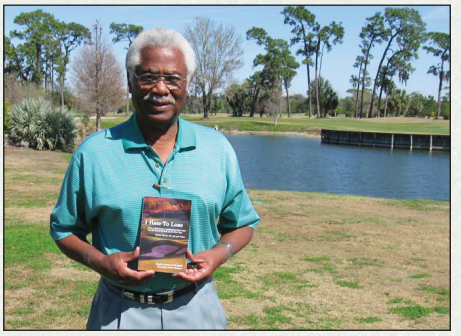
Tennis legend **Althea Gibson** attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee on a full athletic scholarship and earned her bachelor's degree in 1953. In 1963, after retiring from tennis, Gibson chose golf as her second career, and became the first African American to join and compete on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour. One of the LPGA's top 50 money winners for over five years, Gibson was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

In 1974, the Pensacola Country Club was the site of a historic golf tournament. **Lee Elder**, a former UGA golfer who earned his PGA card in 1967, scored his first win on the PGA Tour at the Monsanto Open held at the Pensacola Country Club. This momentous victory gave Elder entry to the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia the following year. Elder was the first African American to qualify for the Masters since it began in 1934.



Lee Elder leaps for joy after winning the Monsanto Open in Pensacola, 1974.
(Image courtesy of the Cable News Network)

Born in Winter Haven in 1930, **Charles Owens** was the son of the groundskeeper at the Winter Haven Golf Club. He attended Florida A&M University and served in the United States Army, where he suffered injuries to both knees and his left ankle. Despite his injuries, Owens joined the UGA and won nine of the 13 events he entered. Owens earned his PGA Tour card in the late 1960s and played in several tournaments, later joining the Senior PGA Tour where he won twice. He was one of the first to use the long "belly" putter, in order to help steady his putting. In 1977, Owens became the head golf professional at Rogers Park Golf Course and in 1987 was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame. After retiring in 2009, Owens wrote *I Hate to Lose*, his autobiography which recounts how he overcame all forms of adversity to play on the PGA Tour.



Charles Owens holding a copy of his autobiography *I Hate to Lose,* 2009.
(Image courtesy of the Tampa Bay Times)

Osceola Municipal Golf Course head golf professional **Adrian Stills** graduated from Pensacola Catholic High School in 1975 and was an All-American at South Carolina State University. Stills turned professional and won 30 mini-tour events before he earned his card at the PGA Tour Qualifying School in 1985. He was the last African American to reach the PGA Tour via qualifying school until 25 years later, when Joseph Bramlett qualified in 2010. Stills is considered the dean of golf professionals in the Big Bend area of northwest Florida, and, as founder of The First Tee of Northwest Florida, is committed to introducing the game of golf to young people. Stills was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame in 2012.



Adrian Stills instructing a young golfer in Pensacola.
(Image courtesy of the Pensacola News Journal)



Hollywood Beach Golf Resort.
(Image courtesy of the Hollywood Beach Golf Resort)

Broward County

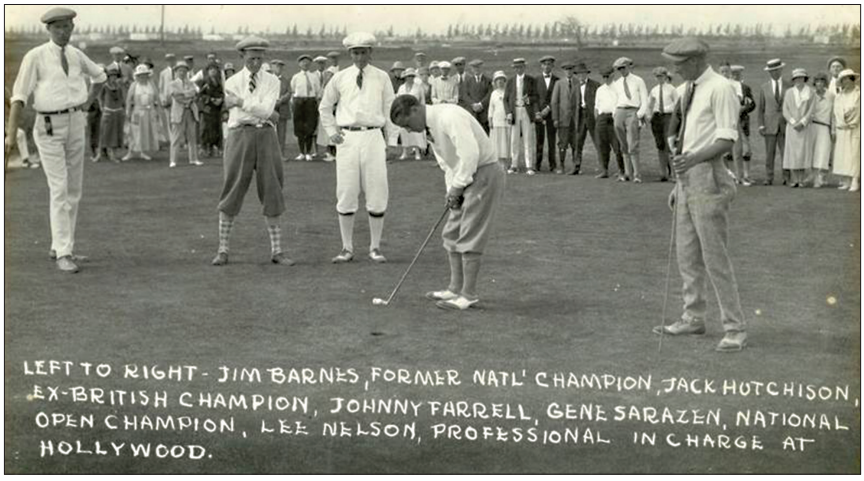
Hollywood

Hollywood Beach Golf Resort

1650 Johnson Street
888.895.6695
hollywoodbeachgolfresort.com

The Hollywood Beach Golf Resort is located in the City of Hollywood in Broward County. Wally Nelson and noted golf course builder Charles Olsen were among the many individuals responsible for the early design of the Hollywood Beach golf course. Olsen took charge of the construction of the golf course, located on former tomato fields, introduced some new features and added around 30 acres to the original tract.

The first nine holes were completed and in play by the 1922 winter season. In the fall of 1922, Wally's brother Lee Nelson, the professional in charge of the course, was spending most of his time on the course directing some of the finishing work and incorporating some late ideas into the final design.



Professional golfers at the Hollywood Beach Golf Resort, 1923.
(Image courtesy of the Hollywood Historical Society)

In early 1923, Lee and his brother Chic Nelson, who served as the assistant golf professional, organized the formal opening of the 18-hole golf course and the hotel. Later that year, Ralph Young of Indiana was brought in to oversee the course and update the layout.

The Hollywood Beach Golf Resort includes an 18-hole, par-70 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 4,900 to 6,300 yards. The picturesque course gives players an experience reminiscent of old Florida that allows players to focus on their golf game and leave day-to-day distractions behind. Players test their skills on narrow fairways, various water hazards, and strategically placed bunkers. Hollywood Beach Golf Resort prides itself on being one of the select South Florida public golf facilities that offers a golf experience and an array of amenities for the most discerning guest, where the public is always welcome.

Wally, Lee and Chic Nelson were only half of a famous golfing family that included three more brothers, Chester (Chess), Erwin and Dick. All six brothers were golf professionals who came from Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1924, the club hired Dick and Erwin to be the "working" golf professionals and also signed Gene Sarazen and Leo Diegel as the "playing" professionals representing the club.

Collier County

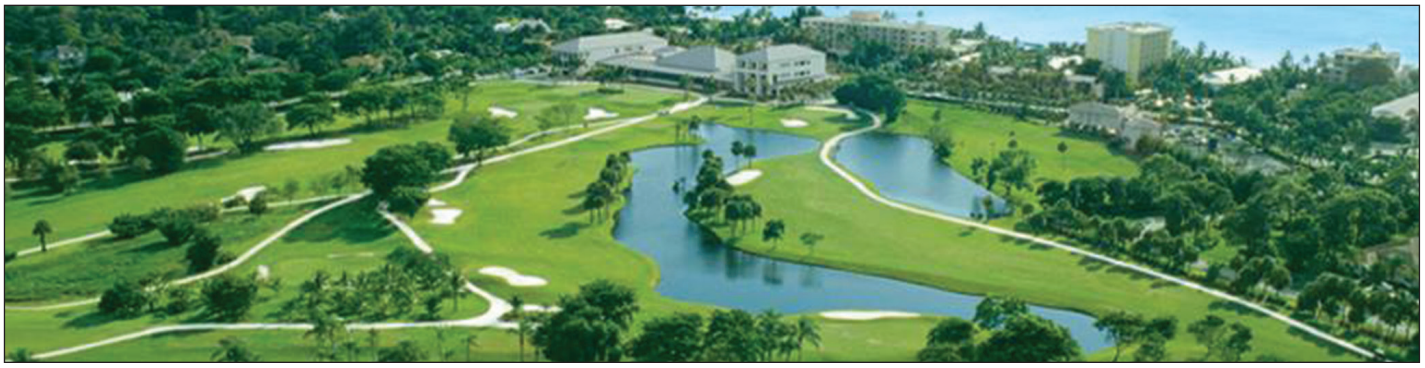
Naples

Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club

851 Golf Shore Boulevard North
239.261.2222
naplesbeachhotel.com/golf-tennis/golf

Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club is located in the City of Naples in Collier County. Prior to the construction of the current golf course, the only available golf in Naples was a 9-hole municipal course with sand greens that doubled as the airport. Golfers had to use 3rd Street and 5th Avenue as fairways. In 1930, Allen Joslin of Cincinnati was hired to construct and operate the golf course. Bermuda grass, cut from the nearby orange groves, was used on the fairways. The course opened in 1931 along with the clubhouse. The Watkins family purchased the hotel and golf course in 1946 and continue to own and operate them today. The course was redesigned by Mark Mahanna in the late 1940's and then subsequently redesigned over the next few decades by Ron Garl. In 2010, the resort refurbished the greens and tees, and completed a refurbishment of the fairways during the summer of 2011.

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,100



Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club)

to 6,400 yards, with generous, tree-lined fairways and undulating, medium-sized greens. The golf course is among *Golf Digest's* "Top 50 Women Friendly Golf Courses." As the story goes…in 1951, an 11-year-old Jack Nicklaus was on a family vacation at the hotel when he broke 40 for nine holes for the first time, shooting a 37.

Lee County
Fort Myers

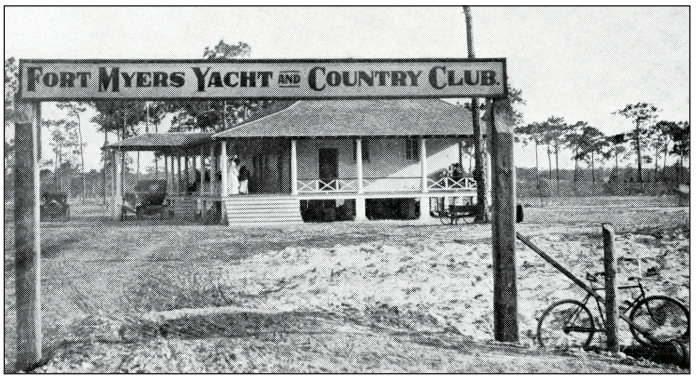
Fort Myers Country Club
3591 McGregor Boulevard
239.321.7488
cityftmyers.com/227/Fort-Myers-Country-Club

The Fort Myers Country Club is located in the City of Fort Myers in Lee County. From its wild and humble beginnings, of grounds covered with pines and palmettos, an 18-hole golf course was constructed in 1916. Designed by the legendary golf architect Donald Ross, the course was built under the supervision of James McGovern, a 30-year associate of Donald Ross. McGovern was one of the 13 founding members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Acting Secretary of the Fort Myers Golf and Yacht Club, A.L. White, helped supervise construction of the 18-hole golf course which was officially completed in November of 1917. John Croke of the Exmoor Country Club (Chicago) was selected as the golf club's professional.



Fort Myers Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the City of Fort Myers)

After nearly 100 years, the golf course at Fort Myers Country Club received a facelift in 2014. It was only its second significant renovation since its 1917 opening. Golf course architect Steve Smyers was in charge of the $5.2 million facelift that required moving tons of earth, realigning some holes, planting modern turf grasses, and installing a new drainage system. "We approached this project as if Donald Ross came back and was designing a golf course on the same site today," explained Smyers.



Fort Myers Yacht and Country Club, 1910s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/32552)

Though it now stretches to 7,000 yards, the revamped par-70 course with 52 bunkers presents the same character and challenge as Ross's original 6,400-yard, par-73 layout in the early 1900s, given a player's equipment of that era. Interpreting Ross's design concepts at every turn, Smyers said the "new" golf course was designed to accommodate the demands and expectations of the modern golfer.

In January 1930, Mina (Mrs. Thomas) Edison, wife of the famed inventor, played her first round of golf on the Fort Myers golf course. Her first swing missed the golf ball completely, but she connected on her second attempt and sent the ball some 90 yards down the fairway. Mrs. Edison finished her 9-hole round with a score of 99. Undiscouraged, and enjoying the game, she ordered a new set of golf clubs. Legend has it that Thomas Edison, who had a winter home in Fort Myers, suggested to the city leaders that Donald Ross be hired to build the golf course.



Martin County Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of Martin County)

Martin County
Stuart

Martin County Golf Course

2000 SE St. Lucie Boulevard
772.320.4653
martincountygolfcourse.com

The Martin County Golf Course is located in the City of Stuart in Martin County. In the early 1920's, plans were developed for a new 18-hole golf course, tennis courts and clubhouse to be built as part of the newly organized St. Lucie Golf Club and Tennis Court Club. Golf course architect William Langford was hired to design an 18-hole layout. Hugh Willoughby, Jr., of Newport, Rhode Island and Port Sewall, an amateur golfer, supervised the work on the course. In 1925, the first nine holes of the golf course officially opened and were known as the St. Lucie River Country Club.

In 1947, the county acquired the 9-hole golf course and renamed it the Martin County Golf & Country Club. The golf course officially opened as a complete 18-hole golf course in 1963. Over the years, the county added another nine holes and by the late 1980s, the last nine holes were added to the existing 27 holes to complete the current 36-hole layout.

The Martin County Golf Course is a 36-hole public golf complex. The golf club consist of four 9-hole courses (Gold & Blue and Red & White) that are played in two 18-hole combinations. The 18-hole, par-72 Gold & Blue golf course features four sets of tees playing from 5,000 to 6,100 yards. This course has tight fairways, small greens and water comes into play on almost every hole.

The 18-hole, par 72 Red & White golf course features four sets of tees playing from 5,300 to 6,400 yards. Portions of the Red & White course follow the historic layout from the 1920s. This course has wide fairways and is more forgiving from tee to green.

Several original holes from the William Langford layout are still in use today and follow the historic 1925 routing. These include holes on the Red Course - No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and No. 15 on the White Course.

"In a very short space of time, there will not be a single town in Florida that the golf stream does not touch."

– J. Hamilton Gillespie, Golfers Magazine, January 1921



St. Lucie River Country Club (now Martin County Golf Course), ca.1920s.
(Image courtesy of Martin County)

The PGA in Florida: PGA of America and the PGA Village



PGA Museum of Golf.
(Image courtesy of the PGA Museum of Golf)

The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) of America originated in January 1916, when a group of New York-area golf professionals and several prominent amateur golfers attended a luncheon at the Taplow Club in New York City. Department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker hosted the event, and among those in attendance were golfers Walter Hagen and Francis Ouimet, and acclaimed golf course designer A.W. Tillinghast.

The purpose of the gathering was to discuss forming a national organization which would promote interest in the game of golf and help elevate the vocation of golf professionals. Wanamaker viewed the public's growing enthusiasm for golf as the start of a national trend, and promoted the idea of an association to help accelerate the growth of the game. The PGA of America was created in New York City on April 10, 1916, with 82 founding members. In 1927, the headquarters moved to Chicago.

In 1944, the PGA of America signed a lease with the City of Dunedin, Florida to turn the city golf course into the PGA National Golf Club. With that distinction, the golf course hosted 18 Senior Tour Championships, and the beginning of the Senior PGA Tour. In 1956, the PGA of America moved its national headquarters from Chicago to Dunedin, where it stayed for nine years before moving to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. With a current membership of more than 28,000 men and women Professionals, the PGA is dedicated to growing the game and elevating the standards of its member Professionals.

In 1996, the PGA opened its golf resort destination, the PGA Village, in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The PGA Village offers 72 holes of championship golf courses. The Wanamaker Course, Ryder Course, Dye Course and St. Lucie Trail Golf Club Course were laid out by design legends Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, and Jim Fazio. The resort is also home to the PGA Village 6-hole Family Short Course, a place to introduce youngsters and beginners and the 35-acre PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance, where golfers of all skill levels come to take advantage of some of the most advanced golf training and instruction the sport has to offer.

Also at PGA Village, the PGA Museum of Golf traces the history of the game with a showcase of rare golf artifacts that include the Ryder Cup and PGA Championship Trophies, the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame, and the Probst Library, featuring a collection of golf books dating from the 1700s and periodicals from the 1850s. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission to the Probst Library and the PGA Museum of Golf is complimentary year-round. The PGA Museum of Golf is located at 8565 Commerce Center Parkway, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986. For more information visit museum.pgalinks.com.



PGA Museum of Golf.
(Image courtesy of the PGA Museum of Golf)

World War II and Golf in Florida

In the decade following the collapse of the Florida Real Estate Boom in 1928, many of the state's resorts and luxury hotels experienced a significant drop of income as rooms remained vacant and amenities were unused. America's entry into World War II in December 1941 proved to be the salvation of many of the large hotels. Looking for available space to train new inductees, the military settled on Florida hotels as temporary sites that could be modified and converted into training facilities. As an additional bonus, most of these hotels had recreational facilities on site, such as golf courses, pools, polo fields, and beaches. Many hotel owners happily leased their entire properties to the federal government.

In Palm Beach, the Breakers Hotel became Ream General Hospital, a hospital for the anticipated casualties of American invasions of Africa and Europe. Down the road, the Palm Beach Biltmore served as the first school for the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. In Hollywood, the Hollywood Golf and Country Club became a service club, the Florida Campus of Riverside Military Academy was converted into the Naval Air Gunners School, and the Hollywood Beach Hotel was commissioned as the Naval Indoctrination and Training School.

Along the much publicized sands of Miami Beach, hotel after hotel became the barracks of officer candidates, while carefully manicured golf courses, once the playground of the wealthy, became parade grounds and training courses. Near Miami, in Coral Gables, the Biltmore Hotel, now a National Historic Landmark, was converted to become the Army Air Forces Regional Hospital. On Florida's west coast, the Don Cesar on St. Pete Beach became an Army hospital and then the US Air Force convalescent center. In Clearwater, the Belleview Biltmore became the home of pilot trainees from the air fields in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area. And in northeast Florida, trainees were welcomed at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, which had been converted into a USO club. The conversion of hotels into military facilities was repeated throughout Florida, providing accommodations for the military and saving the hotels from bankruptcy and decay.



Pilot cadets playing golf in Punta Gorda while on leave during World War II.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/157234)



Postcard of golfers at the Biltmore Hotel, which had been converted to an Army Air Forces Regional Hospital, World War II.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/269637)



Biltmore Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Biltmore Hotel)

Miami-Dade County

Coral Gables

Biltmore Golf Course

1210 Anastasia Avenue
305.460.5364
biltmorehotel.com/golf

The Biltmore Golf Course is located in the City of Coral Gables in Miami-Dade County. George E. Merrick, a visionary developer who by 1921 had amassed 3,000 acres of undeveloped land on the outskirts of Miami, set out to create a planned community he called "The City Beautiful" – Coral Gables. The crown jewel of the fledgling city was the Biltmore Hotel. The Hotel complex originally featured two Donald Ross-designed 18-hole golf courses. Ground was broken in 1925, and on January 2, 1926, Bobby Jones and Tommy Armour played a 36-hole exhibition golf match against Gene Sarazen and Leo Diegel to open the new Miami-Biltmore links. Jones and Armour won by a slender margin of one up.

At the onset of World War II, the federal government purchased the hotel complex for use as a veteran's hospital and released 18-holes of the golf complex to a private entity that formed the Riviera Country Club. In 1945, the City of Coral Gables leased the remaining 18 holes of the Biltmore golf course from the government at $1 per year.



Babe Ruth and the former governor of New York, Al Smith, playing golf at the Biltmore Golf Course, 1930.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/30771)



Biltmore Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the Biltmore Hotel)

In 2007, golf course architect Brian Silva completed a comprehensive restoration of the course. Working from original routing plans, aerial photos and Donald Ross's notes, Silva recreated the authenticity of the 1925 layout. Most impressive are the bunkers. Silva identified long-abandoned or grassed-over bunkers, excavated them to their original depth and created a wavy-edged, filigreed look along the top edges. "The fairway bunkers pull you through this golf course in a way that's outstanding," Silva explained. "Ross designed the fairways to subtly twist and turn around the bunkers, even on the straightaway holes."

The 18-hole, par-71, Biltmore Golf Course features four sets of tees playing from 5,200 to 6,700 yards. The strength of the championship Donald Ross golf course is its superb collection of par 4s. They range from drive-and-pitch gems to dangerous holes like the 450-yard 17th, which calls for a solid drive followed by an unerring approach over water to a bulk-headed green.

The Biltmore Golf Course is the site of the Junior Orange Bowl International Golf Championship which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013. The championship is a prestigious junior golf tournament for the best 18 and under players in the world. This international golf championship boasts an impressive alumni list including current professional players Tiger Woods, Bubba Watson, and Lexi Thompson.

Granada Golf Course

2001 Granada Boulevard
305.460.5367
coralgables.com



Professional golfer Gene Sarazen at the Granada Golf Course, ca. 1930s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/31868)

The Granada Golf Course is located in the City of Coral Gables in Miami-Dade County. By 1921, visionary developer George E. Merrick had amassed 3,000 acres of undeveloped land on the outskirts of Miami, and set out to create a planned community he called "The City Beautiful" – Coral Gables. Construction of this 9-hole golf course began in 1922. The course was initially built for the residents of Coral Gables and designed under the personal supervision of William Langford of the golf architectural firm of Langford and Moreau. Golf was so popular in Coral Gables that the golf professional at Granada, Charlie Thum, was giving lessons on part of the course before it was finished. On January 15, 1923, the headlines from The *Miami News* read "FORE! The Coral Gables Golf Course Opens Today."

The 9-hole, par-36, Granada Golf Course features two sets of tees playing from 2,900 to 3,000 yards. The course is the oldest continuously operating 9-hole course in Florida. Owned and operated by the City of Coral Gables, Granada Golf Course is the perfect place for residents, visitors and beginners alike, and Granada's members take great pride in their facility.

Burger Bob's Restaurant is located on Granada's 10th hole, and is a community favorite. Looking like an old-school diner from the 1950's (cash only), it is located in the Clubhouse.

Homestead

Redland Golf and Country Club

24451 Krome Avenue
305.247.8503
redlandgolf.com



Redland Golf and Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Redland Golf and Country Club)

The Redland Golf and Country Club is located in the unincorporated community of Redland near the City of Homestead in Miami-Dade County. In the 1940s, when Joe L. Burton, a Homestead department store owner (who had never held a golf club in his hand) started to raise money for an 18-hole championship golf course in the Redland District, many said it couldn't be done. But Burton, along with a handful of men, raised $40,000 in four months by selling memberships at $100 each. In 1947, the club retained the services of golf course architect Red Lawrence, to design an 18-hole course, and A.W. Lindgren Land Clearing Company was contracted to clear the property. Only nine holes were built at that time. It would be two decades before the second nine was built in the early 1960s.

The Redland Golf and Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from 5,600 to 6,600 yards. This medium-length layout provides a fun but challenging golfing experience. The original 1947 Red Lawrence 9-hole layout is still in use and consists of the current front nine.



Granada Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the City of Coral Gables)



Miami Beach Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Miami Beach Golf Club)

Miami Beach

Miami Beach Golf Club

2301 Alton Road
305.532.3350
miamibeachgolfclub.com

The Miami Beach Golf Club is located in the City of Miami Beach in Miami-Dade County. Originally called the Bay Shore Golf Course, work began on the golf course in 1921. It was part of pioneering developer Carl Fisher's ambitious Alton Beach subdivision, designed to lure wealthy winter residents from New York, Indianapolis and Detroit. Fisher brought in English course designer Willie Park to lay out the course.

It is not often that the world's leading golfer is the first to make the round of a new golf course, but the new Bay Shore course gained that distinction in November 1922, when Gene Sarazen played the full 18 holes. The golf course was officially opened to the public in 1923.

During World War II, the U.S. Army rented the course for $1 a year for use as a training ground; and helmeted, rifle-toting soldiers found themselves running through the course's palm trees amid the smoke from practice grenades.

In 2002, the City of Miami Beach hired the golf course architectural firm of Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates to redesign the golf course. Nearly every blade of grass was replaced, every lake was drained, and a new clubhouse was built. The once tired and under-utilized Bay Shore Golf Course has now become the elegant and highly regarded Miami Beach Golf Club.



Bay Shore Golf Course (now Miami Beach Golf Club), 1928.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/55332)

The Miami Beach Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,000 to 6,800 yards. While standing on the fifth tee, look to your right, and you will see a house at the corner of West 28th Street and Prairie Avenue. This was the former home of Capt. H.C.C Tippett, the golf professional for both the Miami Beach (Bayshore) and the old Miami Beach golf courses. It is said that he could survey the entire 36 holes of the two courses from the home's lookout tower.

Normandy Shores Golf Club

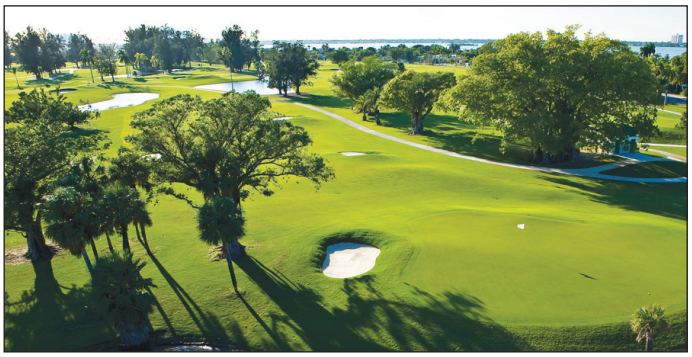
2401 Biarritz Drive
305.868.6502
normandyshoresgolfclub.com

Normandy Shores Golf Club is located on the northern end of Miami Beach in Miami-Dade County. In 1923, two mangrove-covered islands in Biscayne Bay were being developed by Henri Levy and his associates. Workers spent two years dredging and filling South Island. In honor of Levy's French heritage, it was renamed Normandy Isle and the streets were named after French towns and provinces. North Island, which would be named Normandy Shores, remained partially developed until the late 1930s, when the City of Miami Beach purchased the northern portion to create a golf course.

William S. Flynn of the golf course architectural firm of Howard Toomy and William S. Flynn, met with Miami Beach officials in 1938 about the development of the new municipal course being built on North Island. Flynn planned to make this new course one of the sportiest municipal layouts in the country. Construction of the golf course took longer than expected because of the difficulties encountered growing grass on the spoil that had been pumped off the bottom of Biscayne Bay. The golf course officially opened in 1941. Maryland visitor, Edgar Reed, had the honor of being the first player, shooting a 97.

The golf course underwent changes in the 1950s made by Mark Manahan. In 2008, the City of Miami Beach hired golf course architect Arthur Hills to redesign the aging course and bring it back to its current state of glory.

The Normandy Shores Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course featuring three sets of tees playing from



Normandy Shores Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Normandy Shores Golf Club)

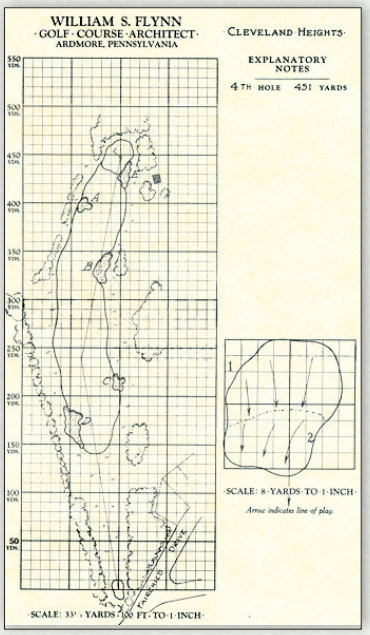
5,900 yards to 6,800 yards. The course is planted with Supreme Seashore Paspalum and while its length is not overwhelming it's well protected landing areas and greens make for a stern test of golf. The course is strategically bunkered, and water hazards come into play on 12 out of the 18 holes. Fast undulating greens offer a formidable challenge, making Normandy Shores a true test of every golfers' skills.

In 2010, the city opened the current clubhouse, a reproduction of the original Normandy Shores clubhouse that had been designed by prominent architect August Geiger in 1941. The structure was rebuilt and retains the same footprint and façade as the original. The updated and spacious interior features a well-appointed lobby, full-service restaurant and bar, a pro shop, and men's and women's locker rooms that rival modern country clubs.



Miami Beach Mayor Elliott Roosevelt, son of Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the Normandy Shores Golf Club, 1966.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/55373)

Famous Golf Architects: Toomey and Flynn



Plan of Cleveland Heights Golf Course by golf course architect William Flynn, ca. 1924.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

Shortly after World War I, Pennsylvania based civil engineer Howard C. Toomey and golf designer William S. Flynn formed a golf course design and construction company. Toomey was in charge of the engineering and construction while Flynn designed the golf course layouts.

Massachusetts-born Flynn was a golfer. After designing his first course in 1909, Flynn was hired by golf architect Hugh Wilson, and assisted Wilson on completing the famous, historic East Course at Merion Golf Club in Pennsylvania. Flynn became the golf course greens keeper at Merion and is credited with the use of Merion's distinctive wicker baskets instead of pin flags. Flynn's designs are known for their superior routing and the sequence of holes, and he was a master at blending the golf course into the natural landscape.

Toomey and Flynn trained several assistants who later became prominent designers in their own right and went on to design several courses in Florida. These include Robert Lawrence (Redland Golf and Country Club), William Gordon, and Dick Wilson (West Palm Beach Golf Course).

In Florida, Toomey and Flynn originally designed: **Boca Raton Resort and Club Resort Course,** Boca Raton; Indian Creek Country Club, Indian Creek Village; **Cleveland Heights Golf Course,** Lakeland; and the **Normandy Shores Golf Club,** Miami Beach. (Golf courses in bold are partner courses on the Florida Historic Golf Trail.)



Golf architect William S. Flynn.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)

"The principle consideration of the architect is to design his course in such a way as to hold interest of the player from the first tee to the last green and to present the problem of the various holes in such a way that they register in the player's mind as he stands on the tee or on the fairway from tee to green"

– William S. Flynn, 1927

Miami Shores

Miami Shores Country Club

10000 Biscayne Boulevard
305.795.2360
miamishoresgolf.com

Miami Shores Country Club is located in the Village of Miami Shores, in Miami-Dade County. Early in 1939, work crews began clearing 130 acres of woodland for the new Miami Shores Village Golf and Country Club. Partial funding for the construction came from the federal government's Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. Golf course architects Robert F. "Red" Lawrence and Louis Wilson planned the course and directed its construction. Lawrence and Wilson were former associates of the architectural firm of Toomey & Flynn. The golf course opened in the fall of 1939. Two major hazards bisect the golf course, the Biscayne Canal Number C-8 and the Florida East Coast railroad, the latter of which is now deemed out of bounds.

In 2011, the golf course underwent a major renovation which included installing MiniVerde Bermuda on the greens. Improvements also included tee and fairway renovations, restoration of bunkers, re-shaping of greens and general upgrades to playability and conditioning. The course has been host to a number of prestigious events including the Florida State Open. Celebrity players Bob Hope, Joe DiMaggio, Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, and Lee Trevino have graced the lush fairways.

The Miami Shores Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course that features four sets of tees ranging from 5,000 to 6,700 yards. Located less than 15 minutes from downtown Miami, Miami Beach, and the Miami International Airport, Miami Shores is a "must play" course for anyone who enjoys the game of golf, and one can play this magnificent course at an affordable price.

Since its beginning, the architects - and former National Open Champion Willie MacFarlane - deemed the par-3, 2nd hole, which was originally the 11th, as "the hole." Angling from right to left, the tee and green are separated by the Biscayne Canal which gobbles up a hook shot with the greatest of ease.



Miami Shores Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Miami Shores Country Club)



Miami Springs Golf and Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club)

Miami Springs

Miami Springs Golf and Country Club

650 Curtiss Parkway
305.805.5180
miamispringsgolfcourse.com

The Miami Springs Golf and Country Club is located in the City of Miami Springs in Miami-Dade County. Developers Glenn Curtiss and James Bright partnered with a local group of Miami golfers known as the "Miami Coconuts" to incorporate a golf course into the new city of Miami Springs in 1921. The firm of William Langford and Theodore Moreau of Chicago was chosen to design an 18-hole layout. Golf course plans were prepared by Langford, who made several visits to the course prior to and during construction. Locals regarded the course as the best they had ever seen, and different from any other golf course in the Miami area. The golf course incorporated the latest type of hazards and traps, making the game interesting for all level of players. Known as the Miami-Hialeah golf course, it officially opened in 1923.



Listing of the winners of the Miami Open golf tournament which was played at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club from 1924 to 1955.
(Image courtesy of the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club)



Miami Springs Golf and Country Club, 1927.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/165451)

Since its beginning, the course had a connection with the local Seminole Indians. The grass on all the bunkers and banks along the canals was planted by hand by Seminole Indian women, and when it opened Seminole Indian men in native dress served as caddies. From 1924 to 1955, the golf course was the site of the Miami Open, nationally recognized as the official kick off tournament of the winter golf season. Past winners include golf legends like Gene Sarazen, Tommy Armour, Sam Snead, and Byron Nelson.

The Miami Springs Golf and Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course that features four sets of tees playing from 5,300 to 6,700 yards. It is an enjoyable yet challenging course for all skill levels. The course emphasizes traditional and classic principals of course design that tests players' decision-making prowess and shot making abilities, and invites players to "walk in the footsteps of legends."

After winning the United States Amateur Golf Championship in Detroit, Arnold Palmer's first effort as a pro golfer was at the 1954 Miami Open, on the Miami Springs golf course. He failed to survive the 36-hole cut and Bob Rosburg went on to win the tournament.

While standing on the tee box of the 5th hole, look to your right and you will see the only remaining structure directly connected to the aviation pioneer and developer, Glenn H. Curtiss. Built in the Pueblo-Mission Revival architectural style in 1925, the Curtiss Mansion was the home of Curtiss and his family until his death in 1930.



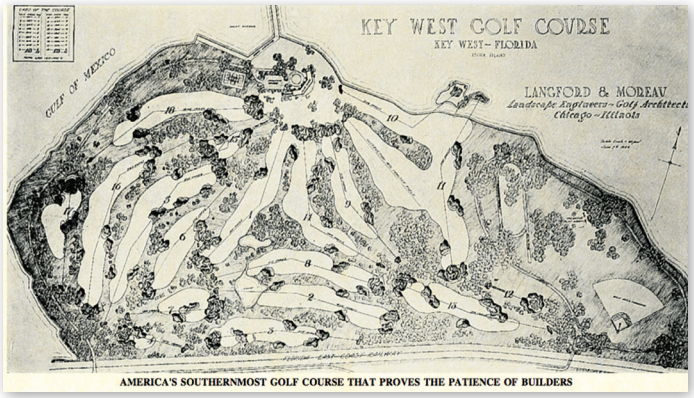
Key West Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Key West Golf Club)

Monroe County
Key West

Key West Golf Club
6450 East College Road
305.294.5232
keywestgolf.com

The Key West Golf Club is located in the City of Key West in Monroe County. In the early 1920s, the City of Key West approved bonds for the construction of a municipal golf course. In 1923, the city purchased land on Stock Island and hired the golf course architectural firm of Langford and Moreau to design an 18-hole golf course. On land described as "flatter than a pancake," Langford and Moreau designed a spectacular layout which included an island green and tee out in the Gulf of Mexico. During the same year, construction began on the island's coral rock foundation. Dynamite was used to blast away coral for the fairways. While holes were being completed, the City allowed golfers to play for free. Nine holes were officially opened in 1924. Langford and Moreau's 18-hole plan was never completed.

During the 1960's, nine holes were added and in 1983, golf course architect Rees Jones and co-designer Keith Evans completely redesigned the entire golf course property. The Key West Golf Club is the southernmost golf course not only in Florida but in the continental United States.



Langford and Moreau plan for Key West Golf Course, *Golf* magazine, December 1925.
(Image courtesy of the United States Golf Association Museum)



Golfers at Key West Golf Club, 1935.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/5062)

On October 24, 2005, Hurricane Wilma generated an eight-foot storm surge that flooded the Key West Golf Club with four feet of salt water and inundated the irrigation ponds with ocean water, leaving no source for fresh water. However, the golf course remained open and some golfers even came out to play the day after the storm. In the summers of 2006 and 2007, the club rebuilt the greens on all 18 holes.

The Key West Golf Club is an 18-hole, par-70 golf course, featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,000 to 6,500 yards, which challenges players of all abilities. Located at the entrance to the island of Key West, the 200-acre club showcases stately palms, dense mangrove lined fairways, serene lakes and undulating multi-tiered greens.

The golf course has several challenging holes, including the infamous 8th hole. The par-3 "Mangrove Hole" plays from 129 to 185 yards, completely over a field of thickly intertwined tropical mangroves.

Palm Beach County

Boca Raton

Boca Raton Resort & Club

501 East Camino Real
888.543.1277
bocaresort.com/play/golf

The Boca Raton Resort & Club's Resort Course is located in the City of Boca Raton in Palm Beach County. The Town of Boca Raton was incorporated in May of 1925, at the height of the Florida land boom. That same year, the town council commissioned noted society architect Addison Mizner to plan a world-class resort community. Mizner's company, the Mizner Development Corporation, hired golf architect Donald Ross to lay out an 18-hole golf course in association with the Cloister Inn. Completed and opened in 1926, the layout stretched across El Camino Real road with holes 1-11, 17 and 18 on the north side of the road and holes 12 -16 on the south side. The local newspaper stated that "The Cloister Inn Golf course has been literally snatched from the jungle."



Golfers at Boca Raton Resort & Club, 1927.
(Image courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum)

In 1927, the Mizner Development Corporation went bankrupt. Clarence Geist bought the defunct corporation's holdings which included the Cloister Inn and Golf Course.

Donald Ross - The Dean of Golf Course Architects

Donald Ross is recognized as the "dean of golf course architects." One of the most prolific golf course designers, he is widely regarded as one of the finest of all time. Between 1900 and 1948, Donald Ross was involved in designing or redesigning over 400 courses, literally laying the foundation for America's golf industry. In the 21st century, Donald Ross courses are still ranked among the finest golf landmarks in America.

Donald Ross was born in Dornoch, a seaside resort in the Highlands of Scotland, in 1872. He grew up playing one of the world's purest links courses, the Dornoch Golf Club, and became the Club's head golf professional and greenskeeper. Ross apprenticed at St. Andrews, Scotland in 1893, where he learned clubmaking at David Forgan's shop and studied golf with Old Tom Morris.



Donald Ross.
(Image courtesy of Tufts Archives, Pinehurst, North Carolina)

Harvard College professor Robert Wheeler Willson met Donald Ross while playing Dornoch Golf Club in August of 1898. Professor Willson was a charter member of the new Oakley Country Club in Watertown, Massachussets, and convinced Donald Ross to come to America. Investing his entire life's savings in his trip to America, Ross walked off the boat in Boston as the new Greenskeeper and Golf Professional at the Oakley Country Club, but with only $2 in his pocket.

When Ross arrived, Oakley's greens were built of native soil, and the removal of worms consumed a considerable portion of the club's maintenance budget. The golf shop's revenue from cigar sales outpaced the sales of golf, racquet and tennis balls. Oakley provided Ross with his first golf course design commission in the United States. He redesigned Oakley's rudimentary 11-hole layout, expanding the course to eighteen holes within the area allotted to eleven.

At Oakley, Donald Ross met soda fountain magnate James W. Tufts. In 1900, Ross was invited by Tufts to serve as the winter golf professional at their Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina, and for the next several years Ross worked summers in Massachusetts (at Oakley and later at Essex Country Club) and November through April at Pinehurst. At Pinehurst, Donald Ross built and designed the most famous of his courses, Pinehurst No. 2, and gained national renown.

Borrowing from what he learned growing up on the links of Dornoch, Ross made the crowned green his trademark. He was a detail man who took great patience to make sure every slope and break met his approval. There is a seamless, timeless quality to Donald Ross golf courses that required very little earth-moving to construct. His bunkers looked like they hadn't been "built" at all, but created by the hands of nature.

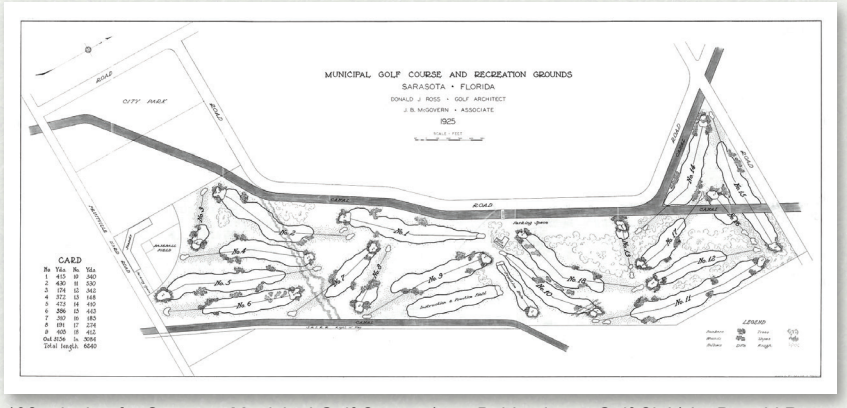
South Region



Boca Raton Resort & Club.
(Image courtesy of the Boca Raton Resort & Club)

When Geist took over the property he immediately began work on reconstructing the course. He commissioned the golf course architectural firm of Howard Toomey & William Flynn to design two new 18-hole courses. The architects designed the North Course, as it was then called, in such a way to fit all 18 holes north of El Camino Real. In 1997, golf course architect Gene Bates oversaw the reconstruction of the Resort Course, which included the complete redesign and reconfiguration of each of the course's 18 holes.

The 18-hole, par-71 Resort Course at the Boca Raton Resort & Club features five sets of tees playing from 4,500



1925 design for Sarasota Municipal Golf Course (now Bobby Jones Golf Club) by Donald Ross.
(Image courtesy of Friends of Bobby Jones Golf Club)

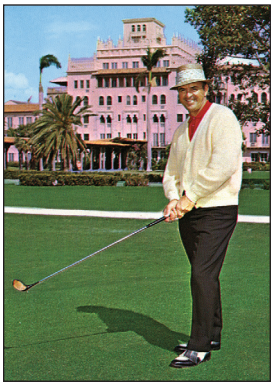
From 1912 until his death at Pinehurst in 1948, Donald Ross became America's best known and most active golf course designer. By 1925, over 3,000 men were employed annually in the construction of Ross-designed golf courses. Donald Ross was founding member and first president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, formed at Pinehurst in 1947. Today, the Donald Ross Award is the Society's highest honor, and their official jacket pattern is the Ross tartan.

Nearly 100 years after the first of his listed courses was opened, several of his courses remain among the *Golf Magazine* Top 100 Golf Courses in the United States today. Some of his finest works include Pinehurst No. 2, North Carolina; the Seminole Golf Club, Florida; and Oakland Hills Country Club, Michigan. While there is no complete and comprehensive list of Ross courses, research continually adds new names to the list and eliminates others.

Based on current research and corroborative evidence, existing golf courses in Florida that were originally designed by Donald Ross include: Belleair Country Club – East and West Courses, Belleair; **Belleview Biltmore Golf Club,** Belleair; **Boca Raton Resort & Club, Resort Course,** Boca Raton; Bradenton Country Club, Bradenton; **Biltmore Golf Course,** Coral Gables; Riviera Country Club, Coral Gables; **Daytona Beach Golf Club - South Course,** Daytona Beach; **Delray Beach Golf Club,** Delray Beach; **Dunedin Golf Club,** Dunedin; **Fort Myers Country Club,** Fort Myers; Gulf Stream Golf Club, Gulf Stream; Hyde Park Golf Club, Jacksonville; San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville; Timuquana Country Club, Jacksonville; Seminole Golf Club, Juno Beach; **Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course,** Melbourne; **New Smyrna Golf Club,** New Smyrna Beach; Palm Beach Country Club, Palm Beach; **Bobby Jones Golf Club - American & British,** Sarasota; and Sara Bay Country Club, Sarasota. (Golf courses in bold are partner courses on the Florida Historic Golf Trail.)

"Florida's golf courses are famous the world over. They are so designed as to give pleasure to the good and the poor performer. Traps are arranged so as to give a player something to think about each day he visits the links."

– Donald Ross, 1925



Host golf professional Sam Snead at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, ca. 1960s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/269684)

to 6,200 yards. With 12 acres of lakes, water comes into play throughout most of the course. Signature to the course is a central elevation of more than 30 feet (one of the highest natural points in Boca Raton), a scenic island green completing the course on the 18th hole, and a custom-designed water feature. Architect Gene Bates explains, "To maintain the historical significance of the course, we fashioned many of the tees and bunkers to their original design. However, we transformed the fairways and greens to be much more demanding. Each hole offers five sets of tees, providing a well-rounded resort golf experience." Please note: To enjoy play on the Resort Course, you must be a registered guest of the hotel, or a member at the Boca Raton Resort & Club.

The Resort Course is dedicated to golfing legends Tommy Armour, "the Silver Scot," and "Slammin'" Sammy Snead. Both served as golf professionals at the Resort from 1926 to 1955, and 1956 to 1969, respectively. Located in the heart of the Resort, the 1926 old Cloister Hotel, forms the eastern wing of the current resort.

Delray Beach

Delray Beach Golf Club

2200 Highland Avenue
561.243.7380
delraybeachgolfclub.com

The Delray Beach Golf Club is located in the City of Delray Beach in Palm Beach County. In 1923, the city purchased land for a municipal golf course and two years later legendary golf course architect Donald Ross designed an 18-hole golf course for the property. In 1926, the golf course officially opened but only nine holes were built.



Delray Beach Golf Club, 1940s.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/153024)

The 9-hole course continued in operation until it was closed because of World War II. After reopening in 1945, the city leaders voted to add a second nine holes which opened in 1950. Red Lawrence and Robert Bruce Harris made course additions and redesigns during the 1960s.

On their way to play in Miami, touring professionals would stop over in Delray to loop the excellent Ross-designed layout. Betty Jameson, LPGA Hall of Fame member and long-time Delray resident, recalls that, "It was accurate in measurement, had excellent fairways and exceptional drainage." So exceptional, in fact, that it was listed as one of the top ten courses in the country at the time. As word spread, more and more players and club professionals began "hanging" at DBGC. The Golf Club is currently the home of several Pro-Am events, including the annual Betty Jameson Classic and the annual Beth Daniel Clinic, featuring the likes of Beth Daniel and Meg Mallon.

The Delray Beach Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-72 golf course featuring four sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 6,800 yards. The course is open and well-bunkered with elevated greens. Water comes into play on seven holes. The original Donald Ross 9-hole layout is still in use and consists of the current back nine.

"Golf has been 'the' fad at Palm Beach, Fla. this season. The devotees of the sport are on the grounds from morning until night. They talk about golf, think golf, sleep golf and incidentally play golf."

– Boston Herald, April 3, 1898



Hole No.10 (original Ross Hole No. 1), Delray Beach Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of Tommi Ylijoku, Delray Beach Golf Club)



Historic image of the Lake Worth Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/83960)

Lake Worth

Lake Worth Golf Club

One 7th Avenue North
561.582.9713
lakeworthgolfclubf.com

The Lake Worth Golf Club is located in the City of Lake Worth in Palm Beach County. In 1923, the City of Lake Worth approved a proposition to build a golf course along the city's lakefront. The golf course architectural firm of Langford and Moreau was hired to design an 18-hole golf course. Plans included dredging the bottom of Lake Worth to fill in a considerable portion along the lake front. A year later, a permit to fill part of the lakefront was received from the U.S. War Department for the construction of the golf course.

Designed under the supervision of William Langford, the nine holes of the golf course officially opened on November 12, 1926 at a cost of $400,000. The keys to the clubhouse were presented by Lake Worth's Mayor to Cameron Trent, the golf professional. In 1948, the completed 18-hole golf course was opened for play after golf course architect Dick Wilson redesigned the original holes and added nine more.

The Lake Worth Golf Club includes an 18-hole, par-70 golf course, featuring five sets of tees playing from 5,100 to 5,900 yards. The course is comprised of a unique old Florida design along 1.2 miles of the Intracoastal Waterway. A 1927 newspaper report claimed that "golfers will soon replace boats," in recognition that almost all of the golf course land was once at the bottom of Lake Worth.

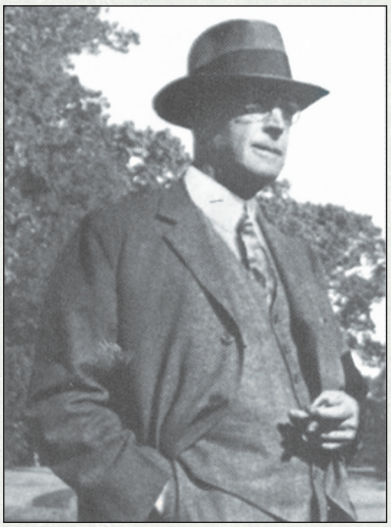


Leather golf glove, 1930s.
(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)



Lake Worth Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Lake Worth Golf Club)

Famous Golf Architect: Seth Raynor



Seth Raynor, ca. 1925.
(Image courtesy of Yale University)

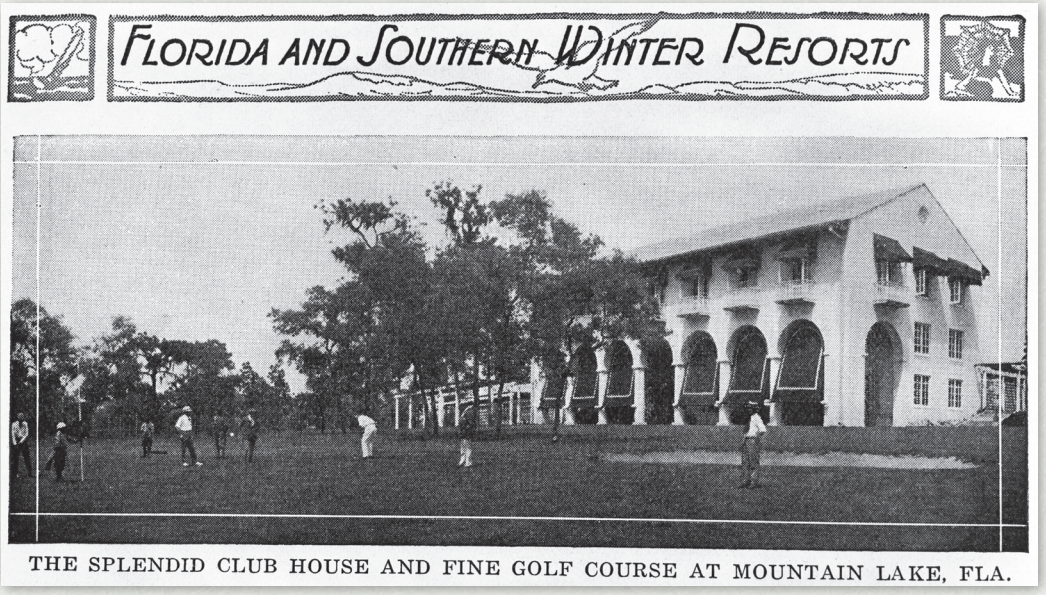
In the realm of early American golf architects, Seth Raynor stands apart from virtually all his contemporaries by what he didn't do as much as what he created. Raynor understood that great golf holes have within them multiple strategies and options, giving players with varying degrees of ability more than one way to get from tee to green. Although there are no definitive numbers, it is believed that during his career, Raynor remodeled or built between 70 and 100 courses including four in Florida.

A civil engineer by training, Raynor came to the craft of design when he was hired by Charles Blair Macdonald in 1907 to survey what became the National Golf Links of America on Long Island, this country's first world-class design. Macdonald built the first 18-hole course in the United States, the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois, and is often considered the father of American golf course architecture.

Although not a golfer, Raynor took to golf course architecture, joined Macdonald full time and by 1914 was also working on his own. Raynor learned design from Macdonald, who believed the finest golf holes in the world could be found throughout the British Isles, and in one notable case, France. Referred to as "template holes" their designs were adapted by Macdonald and Raynor. Players will invariably find versions of the Road Hole, the Redan, Eden and others on Raynor courses, and nearly always a Punchbowl green. In Florida, the Road Hole at Mountain Lake Golf Course in Lake Wales is based on the 17th hole at the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland, and at Lake Wales Country Club, the original Biarritz hole was inspired by the long gone Chasm Hole at a layout in Biarritz, France.

The only municipal layout Raynor ever built was the Lake Wales Country Club, and the Mountain Lake Golf Course is one of his most-highly regarded creations. Seth Raynor died in 1926 while working on a project in West Palm Beach after spending two weeks laying out a pair of courses in Hawaii. In Macdonald's 1928 book, *Scotland's Gift–Golf*, he wrote of his protégé, "Raynor was a great loss to the community but still a greater loss to me. I admired him from every point of view."

Seth Raynor golf courses in Florida include the **Lake Wales Country Club**, Lake Wales; Mountain Lake Golf Course, Lake Wales; **North Palm Beach Country Club,** North Palm Beach; and the Everglades Club, Palm Beach. (Golf courses in bold are partner courses on the Florida Historic Golf Trail.)



Mountain Lake Golf Course, Lake Wales, ca. 1919.
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/144970)

North Palm Beach

North Palm Beach Country Club

951 U.S. Highway 1
561.691.3433
npbcc.org

The North Palm Beach Country Club is located in the Village of North Palm Beach in Palm Beach County. In 1919, Palm Beach developer Paris Singer opened the Everglades Club in the Town of Palm Beach. The Club had a 9-hole golf course designed by golf course architect Seth Raynor. Within two years of its opening, the club membership went from 25 to 500 members. A few years later, Singer, along with Harry Kelsey, purchased land several miles north of the existing Everglades Club and adjacent to Kelsey City (Lake Park) to build a new golf course.

In 1926, Singer presided over the opening of the new 18-hole golf course designed by Seth Raynor. Newspaper articles described the new course as being accessible by either automobile or by fast motor boats direct from the club's steps. The golf course became known as the Palm Beach Winter Club. The club and golf course were purchased by the Village of North Palm Beach in 1962, and a new Club was built and opened in 1963. The original 1926 clubhouse remained until 1984.

In November 2006, the North Palm Beach Country Club opened its newly renovated golf course, becoming only the second public municipal golf course in the United States at that time to bear the prestigious moniker of a Jack Nicklaus "Signature" Golf Course. Nicklaus stated that the North Palm Beach Country Club would be a great addition and showcase course for the Palm Beaches.



1926 clubhouse (demolished in 1984), North Palm Beach Country Club, ca. 1920s.
(Image courtesy of the Lake Park Historical Society)

The North Palm Beach Country Club includes an 18-hole, par-71 golf course featuring six sets of tees, including a family tee, playing from 3,600 up to 7,000 yards, so each golfer may challenge the course in a manner that is equal to their individual game. A putting green is located by the first hole and a pitching/chipping green is located by the fifteenth hole for golfers to perfect their "short game." The Nicklaus "Signature" North Palm Beach Country Club has received many accolades including the No. 1 ranked Municipal Course in Florida and No. 27 in America by *Golfweek Magazine* and voted the No.1 Public Course in Palm Beach County by the *Palm Beach Post.*

For the multi-million dollar 2006 renovation project, Jack Nicklaus charged the Village of North Palm Beach only one dollar. "This was my way to give a little something back to the community and the people who have given me so much," he said.



North Palm Beach Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the North Palm Beach Country Club)



West Palm Beach Golf Course.
(Image courtesy of the West Palm Beach Golf Course)

West Palm Beach

West Palm Beach Golf Course

7001 Parker Avenue
561.882.1591
wpalmbeachgc.com

The West Palm Beach Golf Course is located in the City of West Palm Beach in Palm Beach County. West Palm Beach Country Club, built in the 1920s, was West Palm Beach's first golf course. During World War II, it was purchased by the federal government to enlarge the Palm Beach Air Force Base (Morrison Field). With the purchase funds, in 1942 the city leased the Belvedere Country Club to provide citizens a place to golf.

City officials considered purchasing the North Palm Beach Golf Course and clubhouse but decided instead to build a new golf course closer to the city. They selected the design of prominent golf course architect Dick Wilson, and began construction in 1946. Wilson designed a unique, highly rolling, waterless 18-hole layout. The new course opened in 1947 and was soon hosting the West Palm Beach Open Invitational, a yearly PGA tournament. Arnold Palmer, Gardner Dickinson, and Gay Brewer are just a few of the past winners at the annual Palm Beach event. In 1959, Palmer won the West Palm Beach Open in a three-way playoff on this golf course with rounds of 72, 67, 66, and 76 and earned the winners prize of $2,000. The Golf Course was restored in 2009 by ten time PGA Tour Champion Mark McCumber.

The 18-hole, par-72 West Palm Beach Golf Course features five sets of tees playing from 5,000 to 7,002 yards. Rolling terrain, elevated greens and tees, a magnificent variety of native vegetation, palm, pine and oak trees, and no water hazards distinguish this public course from others in the county. The West Palm Beach Golf Course has a full grass driving range, a large practice area overlooking the course, and lesson programs are available.



Jackie Gleason, Arnold Palmer, and Charlie Philips at the West Palm Beach Open, ca. 1965.
(Image courtesy of the West Palm Beach Golf Course)

South Region

Other Historic Golf Courses in this Region



Gasparilla Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Gasparilla Golf Club)



Palm Beach Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Palm Beach Country Club)



Riviera Country Club.
(Image courtesy of the Riviera Country Club)



Seminole Golf Club.
(Image courtesy of the Seminole Golf Club)

(continued)

Broward County

Hollywood

Orangebrook Golf & Country Club (public)
400 Entrada Drive
954.967.4653
orangebrook.com

Plantation

Fort Lauderdale Country Club (private)
415 Country Club Circle
954.587.4700
fortlauderdalecc.com

Hendry County

Clewiston

Clewiston Municipal Golf Course (public)
1201 San Luiz Avenue
863.983.1448
clewiston-fl.gov

Lee County

Boca Grande

Gasparilla Golf Club (public)
500 Palm Avenue
877.403.0599
the-gasparilla-inn.com/activities/golf

Miami-Dade County

Coral Gables

Riviera Country Club (private)
1155 Blue Road
305.661.5331
rivieracc.com

Miami Beach

Indian Creek Country Club (private)
55 Indian Creek Village
305.866.5751
indiancreekcountryclub.org

Miami-Dade County

Miami Beach

La Gorce Country Club (private)
5685 Alton Road
305.866.4421
lagorcecc.com

Palm Beach County

Belle Glade

Sugarcane Golf Club (public)
2619 West Canal Street North
561.996.6605

Gulf Stream

Gulf Stream Golf Club (private)
2401 North Ocean Boulevard
561.278.0392
gsgcfl.com

Juno Beach

Seminole Golf Club (private)
901 Seminole Boulevard
561.626.0280

Palm Beach

Everglades Club (private)
356 Worth Avenue
561.655.7810

Palm Beach Country Club (private)
760 North Ocean Boulevard
561.844.3501
palmbeachcountryclub.org

The Breakers - Ocean Course (public)
One South County Road
561.659.8440
thebreakers.com/golf/oceangolf

Contributors

Robert F. Bendus was appointed Director of the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources in 2011 and designated by Governor Rick Scott to serve as Florida's State Historic Preservation Officer. He attended Catholic University, Georgetown University, and St. Louis University School of Law and is currently pursuing his doctorate in History/Anthropology at Florida State University. Bendus has a deep passion and appreciation for the game of golf and its history, and learned to play as a caddy in Pennsylvania. He has taught the game as an assistant professional in Florida.

Scott Edwards is a Historic Preservationist with the Florida Division of Historical Resources and Coordinator of the Florida Historic Golf Trail. Born and raised in Tallahassee, his family roots can be traced back to Territorial Florida. Edwards has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Architectural Studies from Florida A&M University, and is a golf historian specializing in Florida's golf history.

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Kevin Mendik is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the Northeast Region of the National Park Service. An avid hickory golfer and golf historian, he has written or contributed to numerous publications about golf history and architecture. Mendik co-authored the book *The Life and Work of Wayne Stiles,* is co-founder of the Wayne Stiles Society and manages the website waynestilessociety.org.

Richard D. Moorhead is a golf historian living in Florida, and President and CEO of Richard Moorhead & Associates. He is the author or co-author of several books, including *Golf in Florida, 1886-1950, Paradise for Sale: Florida's Booms and Busts,* and *Florida in World War II: Floating Fortress.*

Shawn Glen Pierson is the founder of Friends of Bobby Jones Golf Club Inc. and the founding principal of Architétc, a Washington, DC-based architectural design and consulting firm. Mr. Pierson is a member of the United States Golf Association, the Florida State Golf Association, and is a Charter Member of the Donald Ross Society.

Anthony Pioppi is a golf writer and historian, and the Executive Director of the Seth Raynor Society. He lives in Middletown, Connecticut.

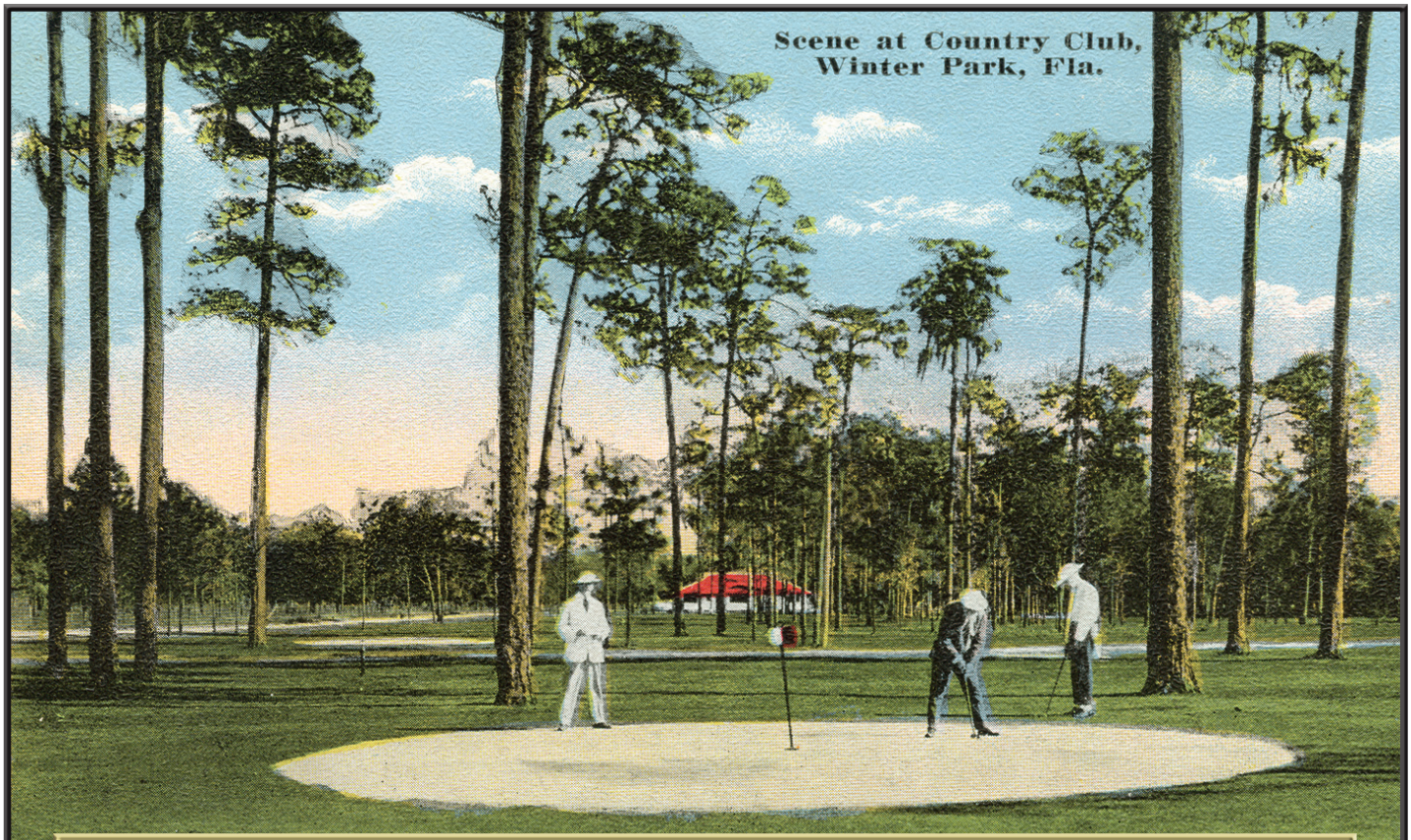
Wayde Voss is a graduate of the Professional Golf Management program at Florida State University. Voss served as an intern with the Florida Historic Golf Trail Program and is currently working at Mountaintop Golf & Lake Club in Cashiers, North Carolina.

Nick Wynne is the Executive Director Emeritus of the Florida Historical Society and the author or co-author of 22 books, including *Golf in Florida, 1886-1950.* His latest book, co-authored with Dr. Joe Knetsch, is *On This Day in Civil War Florida History.*



Golf bag with clubs, ca.1930-1940.
(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)

Acknowledgments



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Front Cover Images: Top left to right - Golfers on the Biltmore Hotel Golf Course, Coral Gables, 1925. *(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/30671);* Postcard of Winter Park Country Club, ca. 1920 *(Image courtesy of the Rollins College Archives);* Ned Everhart at the Coral Gables Country Club golf course, 1930. *(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/32158);* Miami Beach Golf Club. *(Image courtesy of the Miami Beach Golf Club);* People playing golf by the Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, 1902. *(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/27198);* Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. *(Image courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club);* Florida Historic Golf Trail logo. *(Image courtesy of the Florida Division of Historical Resources);* Golfers at the Mission Inn Resort & Club - El Campeón. *(Image courtesy of the Mission Inn Resort & Club - El Campeón).*

Inside Front Cover and Page 1 Images: Hickory driver golf club; Hickory mashie golf club; Consolidated brand mesh pattern golf ball; Hourglass-shaped red wooden golf tee, all ca. 1925-1935. *(Images courtesy of the Museum of Florida History).*

Logo Images: Page 19 - World Golf Village logo. *(Image courtesy of the World Golf Village)*; Page 19 - World Golf Hall of Fame logo. *(Image courtesy of the World Golf Hall of Fame)*; Page 20 - PGA TOUR logo. *(Image courtesy of the PGA TOUR);* Page 25 - Golf Channel logo. *(Image courtesy of Golf Channel).*

Back Cover Images: Top left to right - Jackie Gleason, Arnold Palmer, and Charlie Philips at the West Palm Beach Open, ca. 1965. *(Image courtesy of the West Palm Beach Golf Course);* Mission Inn Resort & Club - El Campeón. *(Image courtesy of the Mission Inn Resort & Club - El Campeón);* Host golf professional Sam Snead at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, ca. 1960s. *(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/269684);* Golf bag with hickory golf clubs, ca. 1925-1935. *(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History);* Winter Park Country Club. *(Image courtesy of the Winter Park Country Club);* Golfers at the Lake Wales Country Club, ca. 1950s. *(Image courtesy of the Lake Wales Museum & Cultural Center);* Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. *(Image courtesy of the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club);* Bobby Jones at the dedication of the Bobby Jones Golf Club, 1927. *(Image courtesy of the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources);* Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club. *(Image courtesy of the City of Temple Terrace);* "Golf Brand" Citrus Crate Label, Patterson Packing Company, Lakeland, Florida, 1920s-1930s. *(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History).*

Index ~ Scorecard

A BALL LYING IN PALMETTO MAY BE DROPPED ON FAIRWAY NOT NEARER THE HOLE, WITH PENALTY OF ONE STROKE.

Page	City - Course Name	Date	Score
24	❍ Arcadia - Arcadia Municipal Golf Course		
25	❍ Avon Park - Pinecrest Golf Club		
39	❍ Bartow - Bartow Golf Course		
34	❍ Belleair - Belleview Biltmore Golf Club		
64	❍ Boca Raton - Boca Raton Resort & Club – Resort Course		
34	❍ Clearwater - Clearwater Country Club		
57	❍ Coral Gables - Biltmore Golf Course		
58	❍ Coral Gables - Granada Golf Course		
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53	❍ Fort Myers - Fort Myers Country Club		
52	❍ Hollywood - Hollywood Beach Golf Resort		
58	❍ Homestead - Redland Golf and Country Club		
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13	❍ Ocala - Ocala Golf Club		

SCORER: _____ ATTEST: _____

Index ~ Scorecard

REPLACE TURF AND FILL IN FOOTPRINTS IN BUNKERS.

Page	City - Course Name	Date	Score
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20	❍ Ormond Beach - Riviera Country Club		
14	❍ Palatka - Palatka Golf Club		
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38	❍ Tarpon Springs - Tarpon Springs Golf Course		
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70	❍ West Palm Beach - West Palm Beach Golf Course		
33	❍ Winter Park - Winter Park Country Club		

THIS ARROW MEASURES SIX INCHES FROM LINE TO LINE (STYMIE MEASURE).



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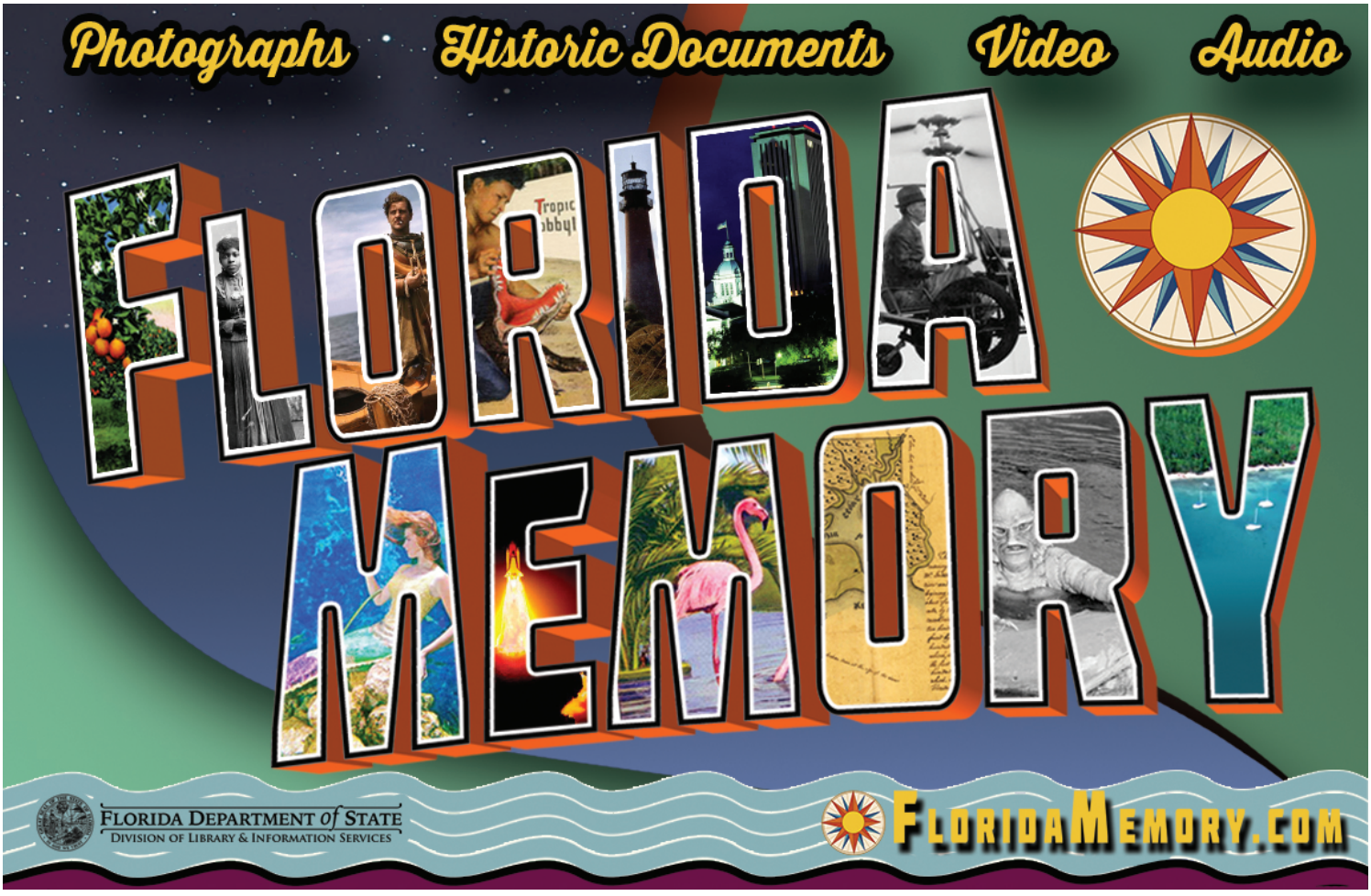
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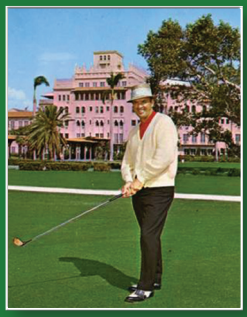

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